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Lewis: mugged in Madison Square

16 pages of sport

Paris fashion

by Lisa Armstrong

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EVERY WEEKDAY

Bosses and unions in joint protest

Budget lorry tax threatens 50,000 jobs

By Philip Webster and Arthur Leathley

BRITISH industry today delivers a severe post-Budget warning to the Government that its transport taxation policies could cost 50,000 jobs in three years and drive haulage companies abroad.

In a challenge to Labour's pro-business credentials, the country's leading industrial organisations have combined to condemn Gordon Brown's big increases in fuel costs and taxes on commercial vehicles.

The CBI, British Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, National Farmers Union, Freight Transport Association, Road Haulage Association and the United Road Transport Union, which represents lorry drivers, have written to *The Times* saying that current taxation policy will result in more job losses than if the Rover plant at Longbridge were to close.

They warn the Chancellor that his Budget will damage industry's ability to compete.

Their unprecedented move comes amid signs that hundreds of lorry firms are considering moving their fleets to the Continent because of the growing gap in taxation levels between the United Kingdom and the rest of the European Union.

The Times has learnt that Eddie Stobart, Britain's biggest private haulier, is threatening to register half his 800-strong fleet in Belgium or Luxembourg, a move that could save the Carlisle-based firm up to £2 million a year.

He has already registered some lorries in Holland.

The latest tax rises make large-scale overseas registration a realistic prospect for the first time. The annual cost of taxing a lorry increased by £2,500 to £5,750 in last week's Budget and is well over twice the next highest figure, charged in Austria, and 12 times the cost in France. In Portugal, the cheapest EU country, the cost of taxing a standard lorry is only £308 a year.

In addition, the escalating cost of diesel has meant that filling up a lorry now costs £300 more in Britain than in France. Hauliers claim that the Treasury loses £400 million a year because lorry drivers fill up at overseas ports rather than in Britain.

The Road Haulage Association (RHA) has been deluged with queries from hundreds of operators asking for information on how to "flag out" all or part of their lorry fleets to the Continent. While Mr Brown made Budget concessions for light vans, the diesel duty increase lifts the pump price from 64p to 70.6p a litre.

In their letter, the business organisations say that diesel prices in Britain are already twice as high as the highest in Europe. With vehicle excise duty 11 times higher in Britain than France "it is not surprising that hundreds of transport operators are actively seeking to register their vehicles abroad".

And they warn that recent statistics show that a total of 53,000 jobs will disappear from the transport and related industries by 2002 unless current policies are changed.

Hauliers' leaders have also alerted ministers to the huge growth in the number of overseas lorries now operating in Britain, partly because French drivers can buy enough cheap fuel to undercut the prices charged by their British rivals.

The most recent figures show 690,000 overseas lorries entering Britain in the year to September 1998, compared to 484,000 in 1996.

Senior haulage industry figures admit that overseas registration has some pitfalls and may not suit all companies. Additional local taxes and compulsory overseas insurance can add substantially to costs.

Geoff Dossetter, of the Freight Transport Association, said: "It won't suit everyone but, although hauliers have often talked about this in the past, we are now seeing a lot of people actually making serious inquiries."

Steve Norris, the former Tory Transport Minister and director general of the RHA, said yesterday: "The cost of taxing the big 40-tonne, five-axle lorries is £476 in France. Here it costs £5,750. That is ridiculous. The Government must review its taxation policies because they are damaging industry."

In another letter to *The Times* today Bernard Jenkin, the Shadow Transport Minister, says that lorries registered in the UK are completely uncompetitive with their EU counterparts. Registering 50 lorries abroad would save an operator hundreds of thousands of pounds a year, Mr Jenkin claims.

Letters, page 21

Girl found strangled in woods after sex assault

By Warwick Mansell

THE distraught parents of a murdered 17-year-old beauty, whose body was discovered in woodland on the edge of a Leicestershire village, spoke last night of the loss of a "wonderful" daughter.

Police believe Rebecca Groves was sexually assaulted and strangled as she walked home from a pub in the village of Thringstone, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, after a night out on Friday.

Her body was found dumped in woods known locally as "Spooky Forest", half a mile from the road along which she would have walked. A post-mortem examination showed evidence of sexual assault, and that death was by asphyxiation.

Miss Groves's stepfather, John Murphy, and her mother Alison were too distressed to talk in public but spoke of their grief in a statement released through Leicestershire police.

"We have not yet even begun to understand what has happened or why," they said. "Rebecca was a wonderful young woman who had her

Rebecca's last walk.....3

whole life in front of her. Right now the family needs time to be together and to comfort and support each other."

Police said Miss Groves may have known the killer and residents have spoken of their concern that the murderer could be living among them.

Yesterday detectives combed the wood and carried out house-to-house inquiries. An incident room was set up at Loughborough police station.

Detective Superintendent Graham Thomas, leading the investigation, said: "Her death is a tragedy and our hearts go out to family and friends. Anyone who thinks they can help to find who is responsible must come forward."

Miss Groves had a large circle of friends and there was a genuine sense of shock throughout the village last night. Prayers were said yesterday morning at the village church for the teenager, who one friend said had dreamt of working on a cruise ship.

Janet Cufflin, a resident, said: "The whole village is devastated. We cannot believe what has happened. My granddaughter said she has had an ache in her heart about what has happened."

"You don't expect this in a village like this one. The only thing you can do for the family is be there for them."

Last night, a 20-year-old man was helping police with their inquiries at the Loughborough police station.



Rebecca Groves, the teenager who was killed while she was walking home alone after a night out

Judges give the noble art a black eye

From James Bone in New York

THE decision in America was unanimous: the sport of boxing suffered a big black eye. American commentators yesterday joined the thousands of British fans who made the trip to New York in denouncing the inexplicable draw declared between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield.

A celebrity-studded crowd, including Keith Richards, Spike Lee, Jack Nicholson, Michael Douglas, Michael J. Fox, Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick, Donald Trump and John F. Kennedy Jr., jeered as the third judge, Larry O'Connell of Britain, failed to give Lewis the win. Both New York tabloids agreed in front-page headlines that Lewis was robbed, a sentiment that was echoed throughout the American press.

"Lennox Lewis beat Evan-

der Holyfield from here to London - with stopoffs in Jamaica and Canada along the way - and back again," wrote Wallace Manhevs, boxing correspondent of the *New York Post*.

"They robbed Lennox Lewis of the championship he won in the ring," wrote Tony Kornheiser of the *Washington Post*. "They damaged the sport they love. They called a fight a draw when it had been no such thing. It was like Three Blind Mice were scoring. Two Blind Mice anyway."

Even the staid *New York Times* decision resembled "a Brinks truck heist perpetrated in front of 21,284" fans. Computer statistics showed the fight was not even close.

Spike Lee, the Hollywood director, said: "Evander is my man but Lewis won that fight."

Lewis landed 348 of his 613 punches, or 57 per cent, while



Holyfield connected with only 130 of his 385 attempts, or 34 per cent. The Associated Press scored the match 117-111 to Lewis, as did the veteran referee Harold Lederman, who was keeping score for the American pay-per-view TV au-

diences estimated at 1.1-1.4 million homes.

But Eugenia Williams, the American judge who gave the match 115-113 to Holyfield, said: "I scored by the blows that connected. I do not have the privilege of the box stats. I did a round-by-round."

Ray Jones Jr., the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council's light heavyweight champion, commenting on TV, said he was ashamed by the decision. The result provoked immediate calls for a federal investigation and new government controls on the sport, with many questioning the role of the veteran promoter Don King. The appeals for reform will not be lost on one member of the audience. Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona, who once made an effort to regulate boxing.

"In my opinion, I thought Lennox Lewis won the fight,"

the former New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato said.

Outside Madison Square Garden, even Americans who had been cheering for Holyfield said Lewis had been cheated of victory. "He got that special American shaft, the one with the flag wrapped around it," explained Reg Bullock, a New York lawyer who watched the fight.

The 5,000 British fans who travelled to New York kept their heads on their shoulders and did not try to replay the fight outside the arena.

"What impressed me is the English," said Alan Isherwood, who made the trip from Woodford, Essex. "They have come here. They have been completely ripped off, and they have walked away. They have turned the other cheek."

Punch drunk fans, page 5
Leading article, page 21
Fight reports, pages 25, 27

INSIDE

£200m Longbridge deal

The Government will tomorrow offer BMW, the German car maker, a deal to save Rover's Longbridge plant and up to 10,000 jobs. Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, will tell the management that £200 million in aid is available but that this must be matched by an investment of up to £1 billion to bring about increased efficiency. Mr Byers will propose that some of the money will be dependent on the firm showing that its productivity is increasing. Page 48

Lafontaine blames Right

The former German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine broke his silence since resigning and accused Gerhard Schröder's team of letting him down. He told the Social Democratic Party not to swerve to the right. "The heart is not yet traded on the stock exchange. It has a home, and it beats on the left." He felt that the Chancellor was making too many concessions to big business. Page 13

Kosovo's deadly peace

Kosovo suffered its worst weekend of violence since the Paris peace talks began. Three bomb attacks, one in a marketplace, left seven people dead and 58 wounded and Serb artillery devastated ethnic Albanian villages. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that the talks, which resume today, must produce a quick result and they could be wound up within a week if there was no agreement. Page 12



6:00PM NEWS



NOW ON



(REPEATED 6:30PM ON ITV)

Community in grief at girl's murder

Police fear teenager was killed after accepting lift on her way home from pub, reports Warwick Mansell

A RURAL community was in a state of shock yesterday after a 17-year-old student was murdered as she walked home from a night out at a pub.

Police discovered the body of Rebecca Groves in Charnwood Forest, a beauty spot known locally as Spooky Forest, on the edge of the village of Thringstone, near Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire.

Miss Groves had spent Friday evening with a girlfriend and her friend's boyfriend, in the village's Hare and Hounds pub. She was last seen alive at 11.20pm, leaving by foot to make the 1½-mile trip to her parents' terraced house in the village, despite pouring rain.

But she never arrived home. Her anxious mother, Alison, and stepfather, John Murphy, contacted the police after conducting their own frantic search for Miss Groves, a hair-and-beauty student at nearby Coalville Technology College.

Police found her body dumped half a mile from the lane she would have used to get home, at 6.30am on Saturday.

The road has fields on one side and houses on the other. The teenager had been sexually assaulted and strangled. Yesterday police were looking into the possibility Miss Groves could have known her killer.

Detective Superintendent

"She was a pleasant girl. Her parents were strict about her getting home"

Graham Thomas, leading the investigation, said: "One of the possibilities is that she was offered a lift by someone. We cannot say whether she knew the attacker, but she was not the kind of girl to accept a lift from someone she did not know." The fact it was raining

heavily at the time may also have tempted her to accept a lift, he added.

He added: "Her death is a tragedy and our hearts go out to family and friends. Anyone who thinks they can help find who is responsible must come forward now."

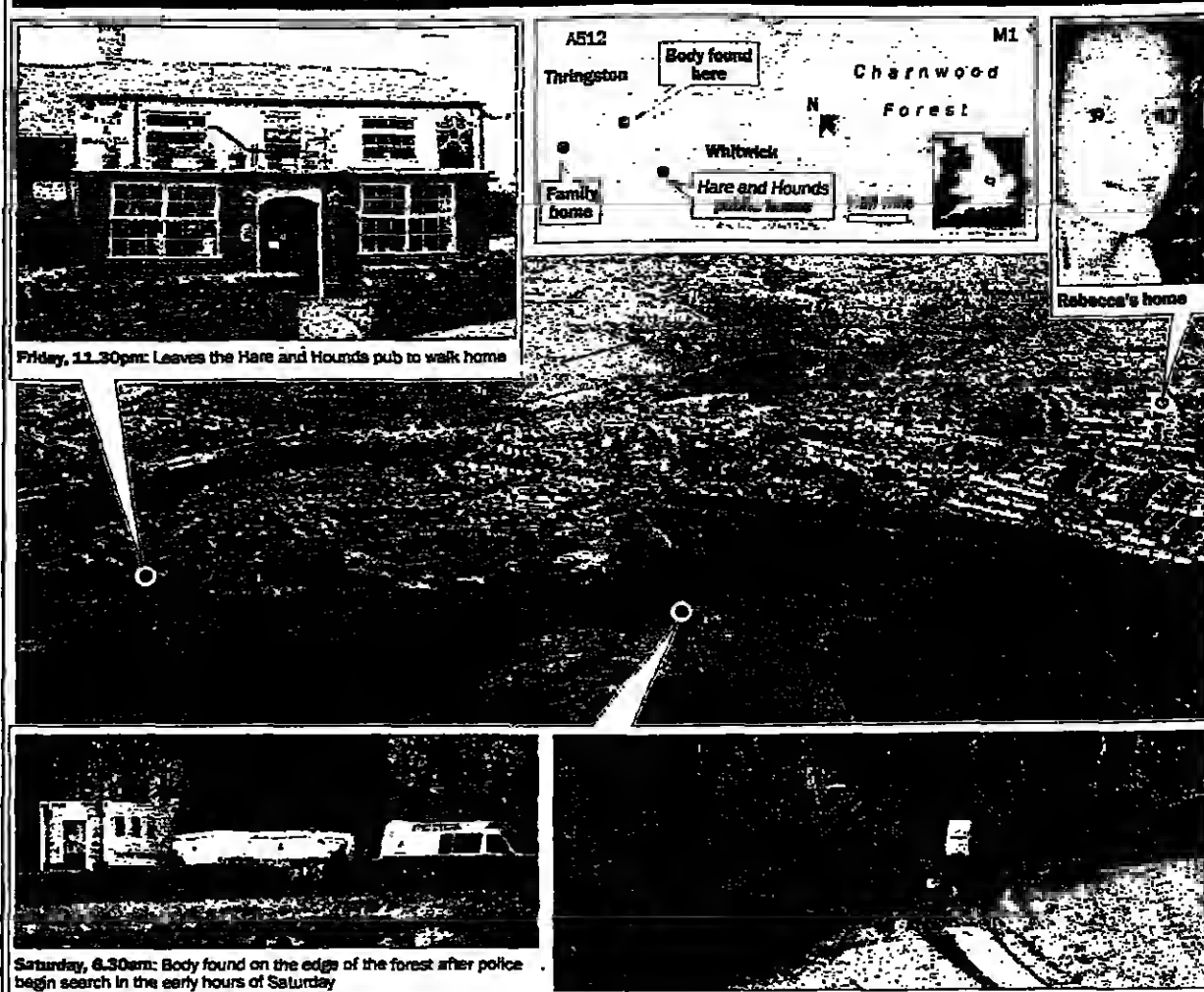
Mr Thomas added that the body was found just yards into the woodland near a lay-by on the fringes of Thringstone.

Police teams, including a helicopter, searched the woods yesterday, and carried out house-to-house inquiries. Customers who were at the pub on Friday night were questioned, and an incident room set up at Loughborough police station.

As Mrs Groves spoke of her grief in a statement last night, police said her daughter's natural father, Paul Groves, had been informed of her death.

Alwyn Hill, who runs the Hare and Hounds pub, which had been hosting a 40th birthday party on Friday night, said: "The whole village is in shock. No one can believe this has happened on our own doorstep, and for all I know I

REBECCA GROVES'S LAST JOURNEY



Saturday, 6.30am: Body found on the edge of the forest after police began search in the early hours of Saturday

may have served the killer. It is horrific.

"The young girl was in here on Friday night — she had arranged to meet her friend in here — but said she was running late. The place was packed, and there were about 30 strangers. She was not in here long. She was a very pleasant, well-mannered girl and her parents were strict about her getting home by 11pm. I got woken in the early hours be-

cause her parents were looking for her."

Agnes Smith, who represents Thringstone on the district council, said: "People are worried about their families. I know that one man is not letting his daughter out of his sight, and others are worried about their children. It's an anxious time for everyone."

A 16-year-old schoolgirl said: "I don't know why Rebecca would have gone to the

wood, as we know it as Spooky Forest. It looks so scary. It's very dense, and there are rocky outcrops that you can imagine people hiding behind."

Rebecca's friend, Mark Ferguson, 17, said: "She was a really nice girl and very popular in the village. She was always very polite and took time out to talk to people. It is absolutely terrible what has happened. It is such a tragic waste."

Prayers were said for Miss Groves at St Andrew's, the village church. The vicar, the Rev Ken Watson, said: "We should pray for the family today. I know we will want to support the family in any way we can."

Another friend of Miss Groves said: "She wanted to be a hairdresser and dreamed of working on a cruise ship. It's hard to believe she's dead."

Last night police said that a man aged 20 was being held in connection with the death.

Boy dies in freak model plane accident

By CHRISTINE MIDDY

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy was killed by a model aeroplane yesterday as he and his father watched a club display.

Witnesses said the plane dived out of the sky and hit the boy in the back of the head, throwing him forwards.

The accident happened at a private model aeroplane club in Colney Heath, Hertfordshire.

It is understood to have been the first time the father and son had visited the site. Inspector Tony Scott, speaking from the scene, said the boy's father had wanted to become a club member. "The pair had been watching the air display from a designated safe zone which is cordoned off with cones."

"When the emergency services got here, the boy was already dead. His father was extremely traumatised and cradling his dead son in his arms," he said.

Robert Drury, a neighbour and remote control aeroplane enthusiast, said: "Those aeroplanes are lethal weapons. They come flying down from 1,000ft with engines spinning at 12,000 revs a minute."

However, he added that accidents were rare and that clubs enforced strict safety rules and had designated flying areas.

About an hour before the accident, a group of people had been asked to leave the club. Andrew Homevard, 27, said: "We were politely asked to move back to the car park because as non-members we were not covered by the club's insurance. There are loads of signs warning people about the model planes."

Graham Lynn, MBE, the general secretary of the British Model Flying Association, said an inquiry would be held into the accident. Police were last night questioning the shocked controller of the plane.

Computer retailers 'snub women's buying power'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

COMPUTER showrooms are dominated by a macho culture that patronises women and ignores their growing purchasing power, a new study has found.

Condescending attitudes towards female customers are common in stores that sell information technology products and services, such as personal computers, Internet access and mobile telephones.

The study, conducted by the public relations company Cohn &

Wolfe, also found that IT advertising and marketing fail to take advantage of the growing number of computer-literate "techno-femmes" or "IT girls".

James Murphy, the author of the study, said that while some computer and mobile telephone companies had tried to appeal to women by changing the design or colour of their products, such a superficial approach would lead only to short-term gains.

He cites the case of the Apple iMac in 1998, a personal computer with a new, curvy design, which

was advertised with the slogan "Chic. Not geek."

"How does that help the women who say they would like to improve their hi-tech skills and learn more about the new communication technologies?" he asked.

Mr Murphy said that IT companies were losing a valuable segment of the market by failing to address the needs of women, many of whom need new technology to help them juggle the demands of their work and home lives.

"There is very little evidence that women's social progress and profes-

sional success is being actively recognised in the marketing used to sell technology," he said.

A Gallup poll conducted for the study suggests that the perception of men as being interested in how technological products work and of women as being interested only in aesthetics, was wrong.

It found that 30 per cent of women and 27 per cent of men were very interested in all the specific details when buying a personal computer. When it came to buying Internet access, the figures were 18 per cent for men and 16 per cent for women. But

when asked how confident they felt when buying such products, 19 per cent of men said they were very confident, compared to just eight per cent of women.

Mr Murphy said that the relative lack of confidence of women was due in part to the fact that IT sales people were less sensitive to their needs.

"There is no doubt that women with jobs are still doing more household tasks than men. The New Man was a myth that lasted about ten minutes. IT companies should connect with this reality of women's

lives and give them something of value," he said.

Sarah Woodbridge, a spokesperson for Cyberia, which runs eight Internet cafes, said that there was no evidence to suggest that women knew less about computers than men.

Ms Woodbridge said that 45 per cent of customers at the company's cafes were women.

"When I am with clients, they will often turn to my male colleagues to ask a computer question, whereas I am the one that actually knows the answers," she said.

BT faces suit for mobile phone 'brain damage'

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A FORMER British Telecom engineer is planning to sue the company over brain damage that he claims was caused by using mobile telephones.

Stephen Corney, 39, said yesterday that he believed his short-term memory loss was linked to the use of mobile phones for hours at a time during his job.

He left BT last summer and his lawyers have now issued a protective writ, which allows them three months in which to compile medical and scientific evidence to back his case. They plan to seek more than £100,000 in damages.

Mr Corney worked for BT from 1986 until 1996, when he left on sick leave. He said that after using digital mobile telephones he felt as if there was a "steel band round my head and the longer I stayed on the phone the tighter it got", and that the area around his ear would heat up.

He said that he had an itch in his ear that felt like a trapped insect, and that after using the mobile telephone he often felt "punch drunk".

Mr Corney, who lives in Bedfordshire with his partner and their three children, said: "When I was first off work I would have to have everything on a list. I would then put the



Mr Corney blames his memory loss on mobile telephones

shopping in the bon of the car, get into the car and see the list and not realise I had already done it and so I would go back and do the shopping again.

"I tried fixing my washing machine, which took ten weeks to fix and should have taken half an hour — and that was working on it all day, every day."

"When I was first off work I was in a bad state and I knew something had gone wrong in my head. I was scared."

Mr Corney's partner Lisa Hutchings, said: "He was a very outgoing person with a good sense of humour and enjoyed life and enjoyed his job. Now he gets very frustrated because he is unable to do the

simplest of tasks." Ms Hutchings said that his condition had improved since he had left work.

Mr Corney's lawyer, Tom Jones of Thompson's Solicitors, said: "I have every belief that Stephen has gone through something which has been caused by mobile phones."

The evidence linking mobile phones to memory loss is confusing. Dr Henry Lai, of the University of Washington in Seattle, found in studies on rats that short-term use could stimulate the production of the brain chemical acetylcholine, which is important for memory, but that sustained use suppresses it, causing the memory to deteriorate.

Climber killed in Ben Nevis avalanche

By JASON ALLARDYCE

NEW avalanche warnings were issued in the Scottish Highlands last night after another man died on Ben Nevis.

The Northern Constabulary named the dead climber as Charles Connor, 23, from Bangor, Co Down, in Northern Ireland. He was a student living in Edinburgh.

His body was recovered from a gully close to the mountain summit by rescue teams from Lochaber and RAF Kinloss after an avalanche on Saturday.

His fellow climber, Katie Carr, 23, also from Edinburgh, was last night in a "serious but stable condition" after being airlifted to Belford Hospital in Fort William. She suffered head and neck injuries.

Last December four people were killed in an avalanche in nearby Aonach Mor.

Police said the danger of avalanches in certain areas of the Highlands yesterday was considerable. "We have had avalanche warnings in the region over the last three or four days and at this time of year it is not uncommon," a police spokesman said.

The Scottish Avalanche Information Centre also said there was a risk across the Highlands.

'Toy' helicopter to seek landmines

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A REMOTE-controlled helicopter small enough to fit inside the boot of a car could soon be clearing minefields without putting human lives at risk.

Equipped with highly-sensitive detecting equipment, the helicopter was developed by a British engineer and has successfully located hidden anti-personnel devices in recent trials. In a couple of weeks, the helicopter will be fitted with artificial intelligence so it will be able to carry out tasks and return to base without the need of a human operator.

Every week mines kill or maim an estimated 550 people in the Third World. The task of finding and disarm-

ing the devices has claimed the lives of many highly-trained mine clearance experts.

The Nitrohawk, which has a speed up to 150mph, is fitted with a device capable of detecting modern plastic mines, as well as cameras and a "sniffer" which tells the difference between liquids such as water and petrol. It can hover a couple of feet above a suspect device relaying live pictures back to its operator. Until now model helicopters have been notoriously difficult to fly, requiring lightning reactions from the controller to avoid disaster.

Bob Channon, 54, a researcher in the

Intelligent Autonomous Systems Laboratory at the University of the West of England, whose previous inventions include an injector pen used by 50 per cent of Britain's insulin-dependent diabetics, said: "There are many possible applications for the Nitrohawk, from tracing underground pipes to finding buried bodies, but clearing minefields is the one closest to my heart. Two or three of these machines could check an acre of land in ten to 15 minutes."

At £25,000 it is also cheaper than other remote-control machines, such as the Wheelbarrow, which examines suspect devices in Northern Ireland.

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Oxford's Messiah is branded a fake

Authenticity of a violin renowned as one of Stradivari's finest is now in doubt, reports Darya Alberge

THE authenticity of one of the greatest violins accredited to Antonio Stradivari has been called into question.

The instrument, known as The Messiah, is owned by the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. It has been dated to 1716, and has been seen as a flawless Stradivarius jewel.

Now Stewart Pollens, associate conservator of musical instruments at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, has suggested that the violin is inconsistent with Stradivari's other work. His findings, published in the *Journal of the Violin Society of America*, discuss design features such as the curling opening on the violin's face, which he regards as unprecedented. He points to an incorrect marking: the letters G and PG were used by Stradivari to differentiate sizes; and while The Messiah matches the PG measurement, it bears a G.

His conclusions were supported by a dating of the wood which suggests it was a spruce chopped down after Stradivari died in 1737. The test was done by Peter Klein, a dendrochronologist — a scientist specialising in wood dating — at the University of Hamburg; he gave a likely date of 1738.

Dr Klein yesterday insisted

that his original results were "preliminary", based on a photograph — something he had made clear to Dr Pollens. He offered the date only "for discussion", he said. It had been impossible, he said, to see beneath the strings in the photograph; he has since visited Oxford to see the real thing.

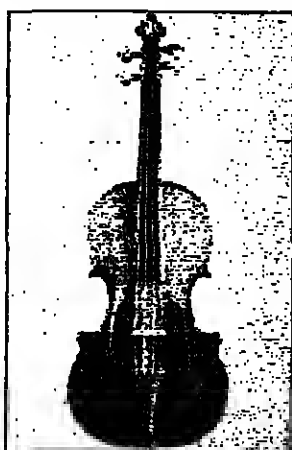
"There were fewer rings in the photograph than in reality." Until he has all the measurements, he says, "I cannot say if it is a Strad or not".

John Topham, a violin-restorer trained in dendrochronology of instruments, said Dr Klein had "arrived at an assessment before being certain about the data... dendrochronologists do not give provisional or working dates outside the laboratory".

He believes that The Messiah's wood matches an instrument known to date from 1717: they may have come from the same tree. His findings, he said, had been verified by scientists at Sheffield University.

The Messiah got its nickname when a violinist said to the owner, who would not show it to him: "Your violin is like The Messiah. One expects him, but he never appears."

It was acquired by the Hill family who donated it in 1939 — along with a collection of



The violin at issue, known as The Messiah

the finest string instruments in the world — to the Ashmolean. Andrew Hill, a senior partner of W.E. Hill, accused Dr Pollens of having a "private agenda". "He can't see why dealers like our family were giving something like this away. Someone like Pollens dismisses such altruism."

He suggested that Dr Klein had backtracked on his original theory and described Dr Pollens's conclusions as mumbo-jumbo: "If he'd looked at 300 or 400 Strads, as I have, he'd know a lot more about it".

Yesterday Dr Pollens defended his theory, noting that the G marking was not in the Hill's catalogue of 1902. "It has been altered while in the possession of the Hills. It is a common thing in the violin world

— the putting in of labels and the relabelling of instruments, not in a fraudulent manner but to confirm an evaluation."

He said that Dr Klein had never suggested that his data were preliminary: "He wrote to me saying he was sure of his analysis." The rings which Dr Klein could not see under the strings in the photograph, he said, would only add a year or so to the date. That The Messiah matched another instrument proved nothing.

Timothy Wilson, of the Ashmolean, said: "The Ashmolean is only interested in the pursuit of the truth and we look forward to seeing evidence laid out in a scientific way."

A British dealer, Peter Bidulph, dismissed any doubts about The Messiah, describing it as an extraordinary instrument, in such superlative condition that "it's like new".

An organisation is being set up to counter the international trade in stolen musical instruments, in response to the vast increase in their theft. It is the idea of the violin-restorer George Eiding, who has been establishing a database, to go on the Internet, with photographs and detailed technical data, that specialists will be able to tap into if confronted with a suspect instrument.

LINKS

www.ashmolean.ox.ac.uk/Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
members.wfsa.net/homepage/v/v/violinists.html Violinists' home page



Two papillon toys looking their best for the Crufts judges at the Birmingham NEC yesterday. Graycaz Oliviar, left, is the aunt of Geanzer Sofine Graycaz. They are owned by Caroline Lee-Farnsworth of Manchester. Results, page 22

Demo threatens Channel traffic

CHANNEL lorry drivers and tourists face delays today as Calais port workers demonstrate over the threatened ending of duty free goods. The protesters plan to block ferries and Eurotunnel trains.

Police in Kent said that a section of the M20 could be shut to accommodate lorries queuing for crossings. Inspector Peter Savage said that Operation Stack was ready to be put into action, with the motorway remaining closed for as long as the queues lasted. He said: "We hope the dispute does not last all day, but we have to be prepared to cope with disruption for as long as it takes."

A spokesman for P & O StenaLine said he understood that the action against

ferries was due to begin at 9am French time (8am in Britain) and last for six hours. Their service would be suspended from 6.15am, with the next ferry leaving Dover about 12.15pm. He said: "As usual, it is the British passenger who has to bear the brunt of a protest like this."

A Eurotunnel spokeswoman said that it had been told the Calais port workers would block its entrance and exit in France from 11am to 2pm British time. She said: "We have spent time over the past couple of days contacting those who have tickets to inform them of the industrial action."

"We are advising passengers they should not travel unless they have to and

we are advising day-trippers that it may not be worth going at all."

The Freight Transport Association said the dispute — on the busiest day of the week for Channel hauliers — could cost industry about £1 million. A spokesman said: "Lorries cannot travel on French roads during the weekend, so Monday are especially busy. Truck schedules are always very tight, so this is going to have knock-on effects for the whole week."

He said that truck drivers were again being caught up in a dispute that had nothing to do with them. "If you were to speak to drivers at Dover tomorrow, you would find they are getting increasingly angry at this." (PA News)

Park tourists face £1 tax

By PAUL WILKINSON, NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

VISITORS to the North York Moors National Park could soon be asked to pay a levy to fund conservation projects in the area. They might find themselves paying between 50p and £1 on top of their bills in cafes, pubs and hotels, or for attendance at specific events.

A report to go before members of the park authority tomorrow says an entrance fee was "neither acceptable nor desirable". It calls for a more direct way of tapping tourist spending power which


can be linked with specific management needs. It also has the advantage of allowing the visitor to relate personally to the project they are contributing towards.

Officials, whose annual budget of £3 million for the 554 sq mile park is already tightly stretched, believe people will be happy to pay a voluntary 50p to £1 as a recognition of the work done to protect the scenery and surroundings they come to enjoy.

This year the 15,000 people taking part in organised

events such as car rallies, mountain biking or orienteering competitions in the park would be asked to contribute, but the scheme could encompass all the eight million who visit the moors each year.

David Brewster, head of park services said: "In no way will this ever replace our usual funding from Government, local authorities and other grants, but it could make all the difference on some key projects. It would be entirely voluntary and people would be able to opt out."



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FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN GOOSE GREEN, EAST FALKLAND

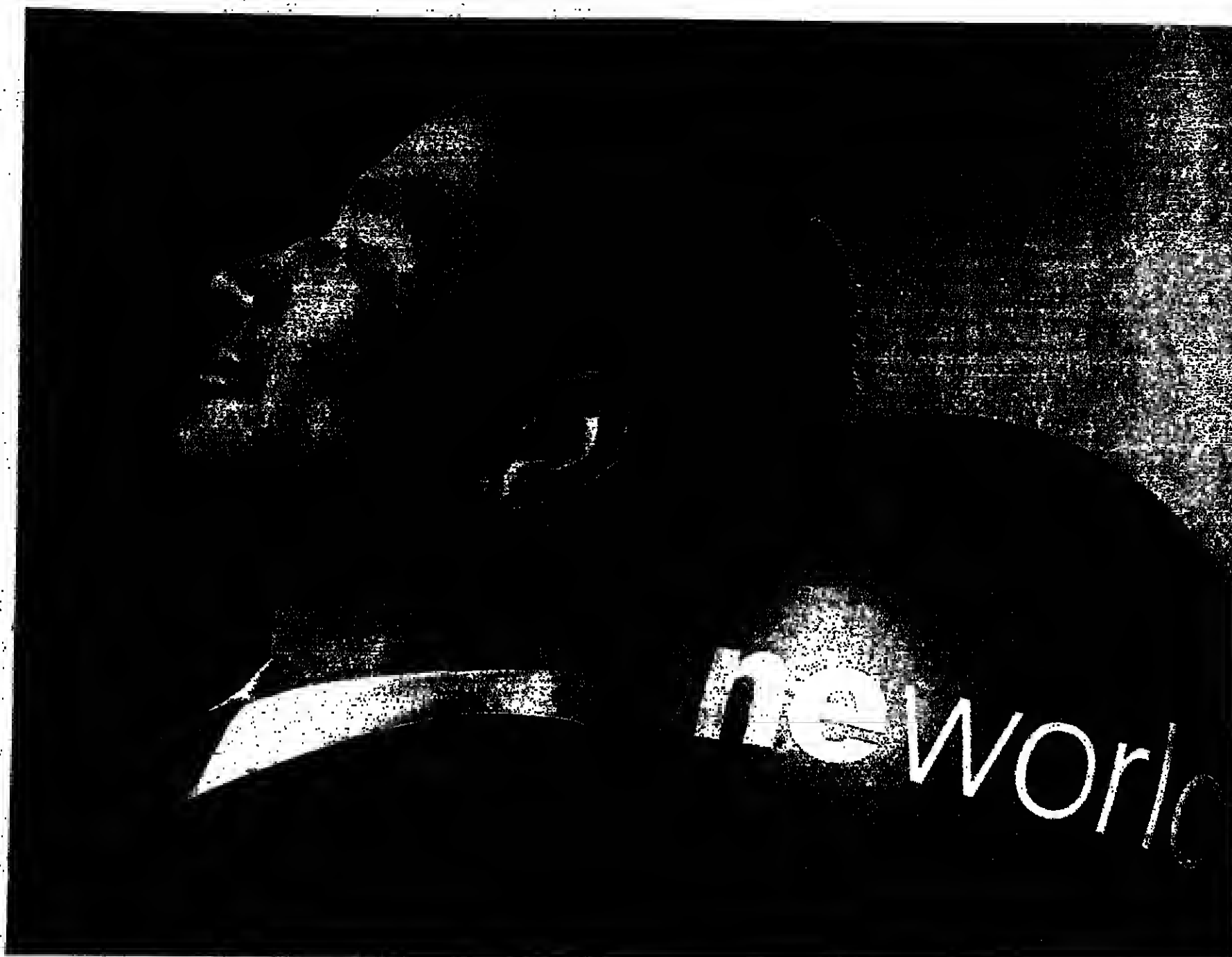
A black and white photograph showing a group of approximately ten men in military uniforms standing in a cemetery. They are positioned in a loose line, facing towards a low, dark, rectangular structure in the foreground, which appears to be a tomb or an altar. Behind this structure, a large, simple cross stands prominently. The background is filled with rows of small, white headstones, suggesting a large burial ground. The men are dressed in dark uniforms with caps, and their expressions are somber. The overall scene conveys a sense of solemnity and respect.

The Prince of Wales pausing after laying a wreath yesterday at the memorial to the 20 members of The Parachute Regiment who died in the battle for Goose Green

of Goose Green recall a bold victory that is gradually slipping into a past era. Seventeen years on, and far more prosperous than at any time in their history, the kelpers still keep a wary eye on a future riddled by uncertainties.

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Law lords seek to limit split on Pinochet ruling

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE seven law lords who will decide the fate of General Augusto Pinochet are to announce the date of their ruling this week. It will come five months after the former Chilean dictator, who is now detained in a mansion in Weybridge, Surrey, was arrested after Spain requested his extradition to face charges over alleged human rights abuses.

Some of the law lords are believed to maintain that the general has immunity from prosecution, others that he does not and some that he has immunity in respect of some alleged crimes but not others.

One legal source said: "They will be divided but it is a question of how divided."

Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, the senior law lord, is known to want as clear a ruling as possible after the previous ruling by the law lords that the general did not enjoy

immunity from prosecution was set aside because Lord Hoffmann, part of a 3-2 majority, failed to disclose his links with Amnesty International.

The new hearing, which began in January and ran to 12 working days and included arguments not heard by the first panel of law lords. The complexity of the arguments and the fact that two of the law lords are chairing public inquiries have added to the delay. The ruling will come within a day or two either side of the general's next bail hearing next Monday.

The court battle has run up huge legal bills and security costs. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has given Surrey police £200,000 to help to pay for protecting the general. Spain has also offered to pay the protection bill, which is believed to be more than £35,000 a week. If the law lords decide

that he must stand trial, the security operation could last another year as avenues of appeal are explored.

More than 100 lawyers have been involved in the case. The general is paying his own legal fees and about £300,000 has been given to his firm of solicitors, Kingsley Napley, by Chile's Pinochet Foundation. Some of Chile's wealthiest businessmen have pledged their backing.

The Crown Prosecution Service, which brought the appeal to the House of Lords after the High Court ruled that the general had immunity from prosecution, has used five barristers, including a QC, and the Treasury Solicitor has engaged two counsel.

The general's own team costs an estimated £12,000 for each day in court, and the cost of the new law lords' hearing is believed to be £500,000.

General disorder gives the rich a beating

By CHRISTINE MIDDAP

IT IS a mild Saturday afternoon in Surrey as the rich and famous enjoy a few quiet hours in their mansions. Then the drumming begins.

Hesitantly at first, a single drum beats out a lonely rhythm. But soon the clatter of a wilder beating fills the heavily wooded pocket of the Wentworth Estate, echoing over the security gates and through the walls of the country retreats.

Then the chanting starts: "Now is the time to pay for your crime" and "There's only one decision, extradition".

This is the scene every Saturday afternoon for the unfortunate neighbours of General Augusto Pinochet. The only thing that changes, locals say, is the volume. "It goes from unbearable to barely tolerable," one neighbour said.

Some just abandon their homes between 2pm and 5pm when the protesters, who vary



On the beaten track: Pinochet protesters on the Wentworth Estate's London Road, 100 yards from the general's home

in number from about 25 to 50, set up on the busy London Road about 100 yards from the general's rented property. They cannot see the house from their protest point. A heavy police presence, and the estate's strict trespass laws, prevent their getting closer.

"We know he hears us, the police tell us so," said Sergio Lagob, a Chilean-born Londoner who spent three years

in a concentration camp in Chile. The protesters are determined to keep reminding the general of his "crimes" but they are mindful of the disturbance. When the family in the closest house, about 20 yards away, wanted to celebrate their child's first birthday they asked the protesters to quieten down. "So we were a little quieter and then we sang *Happy Birthday*," Mr Lagob said.

The film-maker Bryan Forbes and his actress wife Nanette Newman live near the general. "It's the drums, the drums," Mr Forbes has said. "It's a pain but there's nothing we can do."

The protesters have pledged to stay as long as the general, and some estimates say that the extradition process could take years. His next bail hearing is next Monday.

when there will be a flurry of activity as helicopters and scores of police escort him.

There are 600 houses on the 1,750-acre estate near Virginia Water, and prices reach about £5 million. Chile is paying for the general's accommodation, thought to be about £10,000 a month. An estate agent said the problems had been no impact on property prices: "Nothing affects prices in this area."

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Drive to make JPs blue collar, not blue rinse

By FRANCES GIBB

AN ADVERTISING campaign to recruit more working class people as magistrates and to rid the occupation of its 'blue-rinse' image is launched today.

Although there are no figures for the jobs of the 30,000 magistrates in England and Wales, few are believed to come from manual jobs, where it has always been harder to get time off for the work.

The month-long campaign, by the Lord Chancellor's Department, costing £420,000, will use posters and press advertisements depicting people in a variety of jobs bearing the label "magistrate". A spokesman from the department said: "The Lord Chancellor is keen that the bench should be balanced in terms of gender, ethnic origin, where people live, occupation and age."

A second objective is to reduce the excessive workload in some areas but the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has abandoned an earlier aim

of seeking more Labour-voting JPs. Instead, he wants to see a broader social mix and to open the magistracy to as many people as possible. He has already appointed the first six blind magistrates.

Anne Fuller, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said: "It is vital that members of the general public realise that magistrates are ordinary people."

The campaign coincides with an initiative to make the magistracy more professional. From the autumn, new magistrates will have their performance appraised and be required to reach a standard of competence. The programme, run by the Judicial Studies Board, aims to change the perception of magistrates as amateurs. It has already begun in some areas. When magistrates first sit, their skills are appraised by experienced colleagues.

Details of how to apply to be a JP are available on 0845 606 1666.



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Art owners may sell to avoid admitting public

THOUSANDS of national treasures could be sold abroad because of new Treasury rules forcing owners to allow the public unfettered viewing rights.

Many of those who receive tax breaks on inherited property which is of national importance claim there will be a rush to sell after an instruction from the Inland Revenue that in future the public should be able to view the property — houses, land, works of art or furniture — without an appointment.

The Chancellor insisted on greater rights of access as part of last year's Finance Act but its implications are only now beginning to emerge. The Inland Revenue intends to compile a brochure listing the treasures exempted from tax and to provide information on how the public can view the

The Chancellor's attempt to make access to treasures easier could backfire, reports Valerie Elliott

property. But many owners fear they could be put at risk from burglars.

The Inland Revenue has written to hundreds of people covered by the "conditional exemption" of taxes scheme and asked them to detail their plans to show visitors their property without appointment. A letter from Mike Downs, an official in the capital taxes office in Nottingham, says that if owners fail to do so, the Inland Revenue will offer its own.

Two weeks ago a National Audit Office report said that some owners were deliberately making it hard for the pub-

lic to see works covered by the scheme.

Lord Bridges, the grandson of the poet Robert Bridges, is incensed by the change. He owns, with his brothers and sisters, a collection of the poet's books valued at up to £50,000. He is worried about security and is against his name and address appearing in any public register. He said: "We have no difficulty over scholars wishing to study the text but we cannot just allow anyone in at any time and we must make checks." Access is usually granted within 36 hours.

Lord Bridges, a crossbench-

er, is to raise the matter in the Lords and said that if the Government pressed ahead he would try to raise the cash to buy himself out.

The Earl of Leicester, president of the Historic Houses Association and owner of the 25,000-acre Holkham Hall estate in Norfolk, would also be affected by the plan. His mansion is open to the public for 90 days a year. But he has many exempted treasures in his private wing, including Canaletto's *The Bridge over the Rialto*. He said it would be difficult to move these items and he was resigned to "devising a system where the public walk through our private rooms".

He added: "For many people it will be impossible to comply with these rules and they would rather pay the tax and sell the items. Many will eventually flood the sales rooms."



Lord Bridges with a Robert Bridges book; he fears that greater public access to the poet's collection will tempt thieves

'Jigsaw puzzle' reveals horrors of war

By Peter Gleeson

AN ANTI-WAR oil painting cut into pieces and smuggled out of Nazi Germany is being painstakingly reassembled.

The New Walk Museum in Leicester has taken the unusual step of bringing the painting out of conservation for a week of public display in an attempt to flush out the missing pieces.

The giant triptych painting, entitled *Thou Shalt not Kill* and originally measuring 8ft x 24 ft, questioned the slaughter of the First World War and raised concerns about Adolf Hitler's increasingly belligerent attitude to Germany's neighbours.

The Munich artist Johannes Matthaeus Koelz spent seven years on his masterpiece. Fearing that it would be lost for ever, he asked a friend to cut the painting into scores of pieces as he fled Germany in 1937, to avoid arrest for pacifist propaganda.

The pieces were handed to trusted friends and relatives for safe keeping. After years of searching, mostly by Koelz's



Johannes Koelz's triptych was cut into pieces so it could be smuggled out of Nazi Germany

daughter Ava Farrington, some of the pieces have re-emerged.

A large percentage of the missing painting is believed to be still in Germany, although several pieces have turned up in Britain and the United States. Museum officials say, some pieces may be in Australia.

Koelz made a daring escape

from Munich, fleeing with his family across mountainous border country into Austria and then Prague, on a journey which brought him to England in April 1939.

The German art specialist at the Tate Gallery, London, Sean Rainbird, said: "The attempted reconstruction of this dismem-

bered triptych is a fascinating project. It casts light upon a period of great political upheaval in Germany, which affected the lives and livelihoods of many artists. Great anti-war statements such as Otto Dix's *The Trench* 1923, now lost, are well known. Koelz's previously unknown triptych, painted a dec-

ade later, was conceived during a period of fanatical nationalism and increasing intolerance." Adrienne Avery Gray, the New Walk Museum's Keeper of Fine Art, said: "Inquiries from the public have been phenomenal. This has caught everyone's imagination and people naturally want to see the painting for themselves."

"This is quite an unusual step for us to take, putting a painting on display before conservation work has been completed. But we thought we owed it to the public to show it now in its original condition rather than wait for the work to be done."

The Institute of Art and Law, based at Leicester, has helped by including details on its website. The painting will be shown from March 30 to April 6.

LINKS
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Sections of the anti-war painting being restored at Leicester Museum

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Tory activists demand secret votes on MPs

WILLIAM HAGUE is heading for a rift with local Tory chiefs after they overwhelmingly backed radical plans to force MPs to seek reselection by ballot.

Constituency chairmen yesterday voted in favour of forcing all sitting MPs to face a ballot of local members.

MPs gave a warning that the changes would provoke the sort of internal feuding that plagued Labour's local parties in the early 1980s, when compulsory reselection was imposed by the hard left.

Supporters of the changes say that the new rule would help local parties to get rid of unpopular and sleaze-tainted MPs. They believe that it is a natural extension of other changes that Mr Hague has introduced to make the party more democratic.

But MPs fear that the change will allow vocal minorities unfairly to oust sitting members. Such a change, they say, would make it easier for Eurosceptic activists to mount challenges against pro-European MPs such as Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke,

Party leaders fear feuding if reselection by ballot goes ahead, reports James Landale

Ian Taylor and David Curry. Most Tory MPs are reselected by a show of hands. Ballots are rare, and held only if requested by the chairman or a third of the executive committee.

The amendment to the party's new constitution was moved by Lady Bethell, a Tory Euro candidate and chairman of the Buckinghamshire Conservative Association. Tory chairmen and other senior party figures on the National Convention in Reading yesterday backed the move by 141 votes to 90, and it will be considered by the full constitutional college of the party — comprising constituency chairmen, MPs

and MEPs — this summer. One supporter of the amendment said: "The party's grassroots made its views very clear today. The leadership have to accept this. It would not play very well if they ignore the wishes of the voluntary party."

Another said: "MPs with good records have absolutely nothing to fear... but MPs should not take advantage of the good nature of volunteers who devote years of work to supporting them."

One senior Tory MP said: "MPs are scared witless. They know this is an attempt by the local parties to get the sort of control which Labour parties have. They are trying to get back at us because many blame us for losing the election."

Mr Hague's spokesman said that the Tory leader did not have a formal view on the matter, but the leadership is understood to be more sympathetic to the view of MPs.

The 800-strong constitutional convention is dominated by constituency chiefs, who could easily outvote the 200 or so MPs, MEPs and peers.



A performer with the Streets Ahead festival, which has been denied lottery funding

Arts festival threatens to sue lottery

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE Millennium Commission is facing a legal challenge over its refusal to give a £300,000 National Lottery grant to a Manchester arts festival.

Organisers of the city's Streets Ahead festival are threatening to take the commission to judicial review after it turned down their bid for funding under the £100 million Millennium Festival scheme, details of which were announced last month.

Solicitors' letters have been sent to the commission contesting its decision, and the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA), which made the bid, is considering whether to issue a writ. There is no appeals procedure, short of the courts, for applicants refused funding.

Any challenge is likely to have serious implications for the 26 projects in the North West that were awarded a total of almost £2 million. AGMA would have to prove that the process for making the grants broke rules, which could mean a review of all the awards in the region and a substantial delay.

The festival, which has been running annually since 1994, had hoped for a grant to stage a millennium extravaganza next year, including a concert in which a violin ensemble would be winched high above Manchester by crane to play. Carnivals, parades, open-air concerts and street theatre were planned across the old metropolitan county.

The event has the support of all ten councils in the region and local MPs, including Gerald Kaufman, who also chairs the Commons Culture Select Committee, which oversees the millennium celebrations.

Two other local projects were awarded funding totaling £500,000, but the failure of Streets Ahead means that large towns such as Bolton, Bury and Stockport will be without an official millennium celebration.

John Battie, leader of Oldham council and chairman of AGMA, said the failure of the bid was a tragedy for Manchester. "We have been working for the last five years to put this on, but when we ask for the funding we don't get it," he said. "We feel as if we have just been stung along."

A Millennium Commission spokesman said: "There is no doubt that Streets Ahead was a great bid which met all our criteria, but we simply could not fund everything."

Two years on, the bell begins to toll for an accidental MP



Martin Bell: "I don't think Labour ever felt I was a danger to them"

IT IS almost two years since Martin Bell agreed to stand as the anti-sleaze election candidate for Tatton. Now the battle is under way to choose the candidates who will compete for the seat at the next election.

This Thursday the Conservatives in the Cheshire constituency will be choosing their prospective candidate. Mr Bell's son-in-law, Peter Bracken, a former Army major, has announced that he wants to stand for Labour.

Mr Bell admits that he will be sorry to finish his short and unexpected career as a politician, and bitterly regrets telling the voters of Tatton that he would be their MP for one parliament only.

"If I even hinted at the possibility of breaking that promise, people would turn around and say,

Mark Inglefield meets the maverick member for Tatton

"You're just another lying politician," he said. "I regret having made it because I think there is a need for an independent MP and I am not ashamed to say I enjoy representing Tatton."

Mr Bell has clearly taken to his new job and the area. We met in his local pub, The George in Great Budworth, where he seemed at one with the locals. Behind the bar there was an advert for a book on local beers with an introduction by... Martin Bell.

Tatton appears equally happy to have him as its MP. He is a good talking point, and to have re-elected the sleaze-mired Neil Hamilton would have looked bad. However, the former BBC

war reporter is unsure whether he has made much of an impact at the House of Commons.

"I've gone from one job that's held low in public esteem, journalism, to another which is held even lower, politics, and in both you never really know if you're doing a good job or not," he said.

Mr Bell does not conceal his loathing of sycophantic Labour backbenchers. "I groan inwardly every time I hear the phrase, 'May I congratulate my right honourable friend'. One Cabinet minister told me that he cringed at some of the questions he was asked by his own side."

In the course of ministering to his constituents, Mr Bell has

come across his old adversaries, Neil and Christine Hamilton. "I talked to him two weeks ago about his action in the Court of Appeal," he says. "What he has now is the equivalent of a criminal record, in terms of his future employability that is disastrous. I believe he has every right to tackle these matters in the courts and as his MP I am there to help."

Mr Bell has been careful not to come across as "Mr Soundbite on all issues of public probity", despite many requests to do so. The revelation that he had overspent on his election expenses made him realise how careful an MP has to be.

He says that the Tories would

be unwise to think that Tatton is theirs for the taking, despite the fact that they held the seat with a 20,000 majority before he came along. "They have to go for someone with an impeccable record because they are going to be gone through, in a way that I was gone through, by Fleet Street."

Now 60, he is undecided about what to do when he leaves Westminster. He may make television programmes and intends writing books. The first, *The Accidental MP*, will be published before he stands down as an MP. Is it going to lift the lid on new Labour?

"No one has anything to fear," he said. "I don't think Labour ever felt I was a danger to them. I am an anomaly at Westminster as I was an anomaly at the BBC. I've always quite liked that."

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مكتبة الأمل

Afghans agree to end 20 years of civil war

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE two warring sides in Afghanistan reached an agreement yesterday that could bring the first signs of peace to a country suffering from civil war for two decades.

Although the breakthrough, after three days of secret talks between the ruling Taliban authorities and those representing the opposition in the north of the country, was being regarded in the West with some caution, there was genuine hope that a negotiated settlement might be on the cards.

Afghanistan has been synonymous with conflict for centuries, but ever since the invasion of the country by Soviet forces in December 1979, Afghans have had to live in an unrelenting war environment. Yesterday, backed by the United Nations, the two sides agreed to share power, to guarantee a truce and, eventually, a durable peace. Although negotiations in the past came to nothing, the latest round dealt with many of the issues that have divided the country over the last decade, since the Soviet occupying forces withdrew.

The agreement was reached in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, after intensive negotiations between the two delegations, headed by Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil of the Taliban Islamic militia, and Mohamed Yunus Qanuni, of the Afghan opposition. They agreed to share power in the three arms of government — the legislative, judiciary and the executive. The next round of talks will be held in about two weeks in Afghanistan, a sign of growing confidence between the two sides who have been sworn enemies.

Sartaaj Aziz, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, described the agreement as a "very good development". The Foreign Office welcomed the "genuine

progress" that had been achieved. Iran, which has supported the anti-Taliban forces, also welcomed the announcement. As part of the deal, both sides will each release 20 prisoners of war as soon as possible, through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr Qanuni said: "I am optimistic and hopeful that at the next round of talks we will be able to announce a permanent ceasefire." Mr Mutawakil declared: "When we agree on the details and personnel of the Government, then we can agree to have a ceasefire."

Although the key issue of how to share office in government has yet to be resolved, there appeared to be sufficient confidence that a new administration would emerge, representing all the ethnic groups. Andrew Tesoriere, the acting head of the UN's special mission to Afghanistan, said: "These talks mark a watershed because they address not only confidence-building measures but also fundamental issues regarding the future of Afghanistan."

Despite the fresh hopes that years of bloodshed may be coming to an end, fighting was continuing in the north, and the Taliban delegation admitted there had been some preparations for further military offensives. Taliban, which had seized control of 80 per cent of the country, had been thwarted in its attempts to rule the whole of Afghanistan because of persistent opposition in the north from the alliance of anti-Taliban forces led by Ahmed Shah Masood.

As a sign of the improving political environment, the UN returned to the country for the first time for seven months. Michael Sackett, director of the World Food Programme, arrived in Kabul yesterday and discussed the security arrangements for the return of international staff this week.

About 40 UN personnel left in August after one of its officials was killed during American cruise missile strikes against camps allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden, accused by Washington of being a master terrorist.



A woman shields her son's eyes from dense smoke as she flees a fire that engulfed a shanty town in Delhi yesterday. At least 27 people were killed and thousands made homeless. Police said five children and four women were among the bodies brought out from a smouldering mosque where a number of residents took shelter. The slum dwellers, mostly illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, protested at what they said was a delay in the arrival of fire trucks and hurled stones at some of the vehicles, damaging at least three. Angry residents also clashed with riot police helping rescuers and were beaten back with rifle-butts. (AFP)

Slum blaze kills 27 in Delhi

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Harare suspects complain of torture

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

THREE Americans, who claim they are Congo missionaries wrongly suspected of being mercenaries, yesterday sought access to doctors to confirm complaints they were tortured during seven days in Zimbabwean security police hands.

"The accused persons currently have wounds which are visible but as each day goes by the healing process eliminates the evidence," said Jeremy Col-low, lawyer for John Dixon, Gary Blanchard and Joseph Pettyjohn, all of Indianapolis. They were detained trying to board a Swissair flight last week when metal detectors revealed a handgun in their luggage.

Prosecutors, who allege the trio were on a terrorist mission, said a search of a parked lorry uncovered 20 shotguns, assault rifles, a light machine-gun, handguns and a diagram of State House which is opposite President Mugabe's principal residence.

Deal ends 31st March.

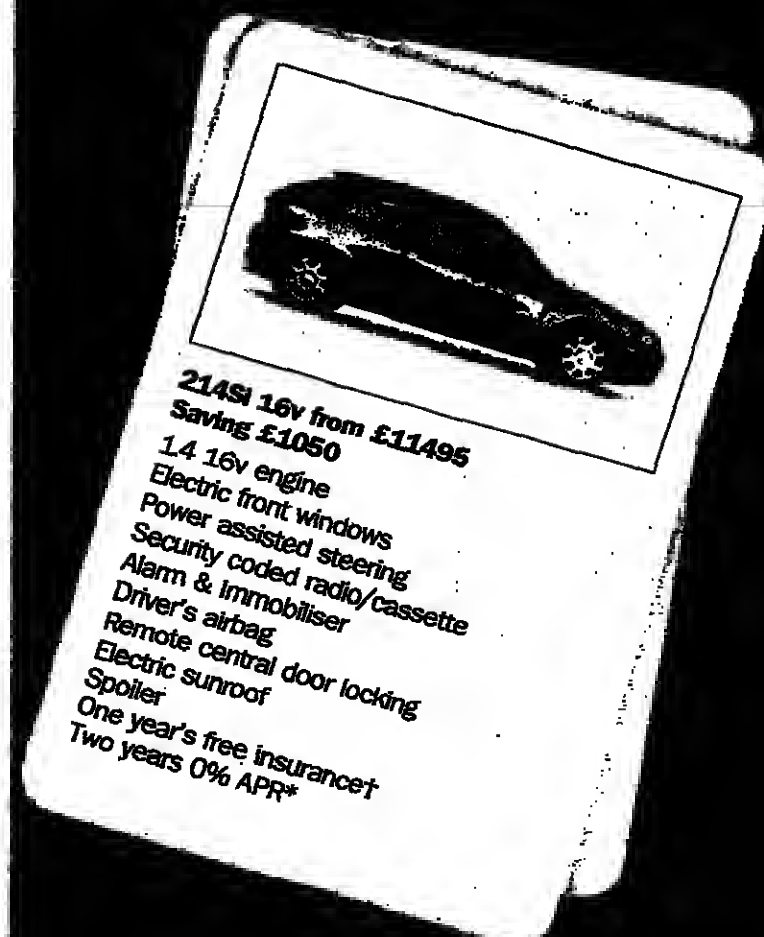
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Bloody start for Kosovo talks

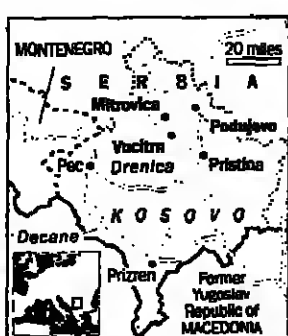
Market bombs and Serb artillery set tone for peace negotiations, Anthony Loyd writes from Mitrovica

AS IF in a final fling before peace talks reopen today, Kosovo suffered its worst weekend of violence since the talks began as three bomb attacks left seven dead and 58 wounded and Serb artillery laid waste to ethnic Albanian villages.

One bomb exploded in a crowded marketplace in Mitrovica, another two in Podujevo, as Hashim Thaci, head of the Kosovo Liberation Army's political directorate and prime minister-designate of the provisional government, led a five-man KLA delegation to the Paris talks.

All three bombs targeted civilians. In Mitrovica four people, including two women and a child, were killed as the market was transformed into a tangled mess of shredded limbs and pulped fruit. The 30 wounded there included an eight-year-old girl who lost both legs. An hour earlier the first bomb was detonated in Podujevo, followed 15 minutes later by a second. Twenty-eight people were injured and two died. A third, an ethnic Albanian man, was shot dead at the scene in the immediate aftermath in circumstances that still remain unclear. The victims in the two towns include Serbs and ethnic Albanians. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks and both sides were quick to blame the other.

Just west of Mitrovica, villages burned across a seven-mile front. Serb tanks, mortars and heavy artillery had pounded suspected KLA positions here throughout the morning and afternoon in the heaviest day of the past three days' fighting in the area. On



Thursday, as the Serb offensive began there, the KLA had seemed in confident mood. "We know exactly what the Serbs are trying to do," said Naim Bardhi, a KLA officer with the Fehmi Lladrovci Brigade. "They are attempting to drive a wedge between two of our operational zones, but we are much better equipped than we were last year to deal with them." However, by yesterday the atmosphere had changed.

Beating for British

THE owner of a bar in Skopje, capital of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said yesterday that five of his waiters had beaten up 22 British soldiers (Michael Evans writes). Sasa Kainovski said the British started the fight last week. "They were only five of us, but we beat the living hell out of them," he said in Belgrade. Ministry of Defence sources said locals also joined the fighting, some with iron bars.

Presented with a smoking vista of lost villages and advancing Serb tanks, the KLA was tense and nervous. Unable to respond to or withstand such an onslaught, they had been pushed further back into the Clevea mountains.

The KLA's fortunes have seldom seemed at a lower ebb. Though better armed than previously, they have again been unable to hold off a concerted Serb push. Worse still, over the past week they have angered the Americans and Europeans by their refusal to sign up to the proposed peace plan, thus taking the pressure off Slobodan Milosevic, the perennially intransigent Yugoslav President.

The year-old guerrilla army can justifiably claim that it has forced Kosovo's plight on to the world stage but its ability, militarily or politically, to exploit this has been flawed. With their luck running out and their popularity waning within Kosovo, the KLA delegation must play a cool hand in the Paris talks if they are to regain the initiative.

Talks warning: Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has said that the resumed peace talks due to begin in Paris today must produce a quick result (Michael Evans writes).

Mr Cook, who will be flying to Paris today to act as co-chairman with Hubert Vedin, his French counterpart, at the start of the talks, said the negotiations could be wound up within a week if there was no agreement.

"We don't see any reason why this conference need be prolonged," he told GMTV's Sunday programme.



Marchers release doves in Belgrade yesterday to mark the renewed peace talks

Threat to 'out' French deputy

Paris: Tension will be high in the French parliament this week after Act Up Paris, a militant homosexual group, threatened to "out" a gay MP, the first action of its kind in French public life (Adam Sage writes).

Gay campaigners have seized upon the changing climate to follow their counterparts in Britain and America and press their demands, such as the right to adopt children. The young politician incurred the wrath of the group when he took part in a Catholic pro-family demonstration last month. More than 100,000 people marched through Paris to protest against government proposals to introduce legally binding contracts for unmarried couples, including homosexuals.

Mercy for Gulf killer

Abu Dhabi: A Filipino murderer, John Aquino, has been spared the death penalty after a mercy plea from the family of his Indian victim, Harbajan Singh Malhi, who lives in Birmingham. The United Arab Emirates' supreme court has commuted Aquino's death sentence to a jail term of 15 years. The Philippines Ambassador said the family had approved the clemency without seeking compensation, but newspapers reported that £20,000 in blood money was to be paid. (AFP)

£4m Picasso vanishes

Paris: Picasso's Fr42 million (£4.2 million) *Le Buste de Femme*, right, has disappeared from a luxury yacht moored off the French Riviera (Adam Sage writes). Police said there was no sign of a break-in on the Coral Island, and there has been no trace of the masterpiece. The painting, which detectives believe may have been taken to Italy, was due to have gone on temporary display in New York.



Mahathir poll victory

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's ruling National Front coalition has won 31 of 43 seats in Sabah state assembly elections. The margin of victory stirred talk that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, might call snap general elections, not due until April 2000. Dr Mahathir said the result had confounded critics who claimed that his Government no longer enjoyed popular support. (Reuters)

'Amnesty' for gunman

Rome: Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who was jailed for life nearly 18 years ago for attempting to kill the Pope, could be freed as a "gesture of clemency" for the millennium, according to Vatican officials (Richard Owen writes). The Pope, who has already publicly forgiven his attacker, has written to President Scalfaro making clear that he has no objection to Agca's release.

Briton's killer caught

Albuquerque: Roger Dale Yeadon, who escaped from a New Mexico jail where he was serving a sentence for the 1996 killing during a carjacking of David Graham-Nichols, a British major, has been recaptured in another state. Yeadon, 26, reached his home state of Alabama, 1,000 miles east of New Mexico, after his fifth escape from prison. (AP)

Fears of Kremlin purge leave Primakov exposed

FROM ANNA BLINDY IN MOSCOW

A FLOOD of Kremlin leaks suggest that President Yeltsin, angered at being overshadowed by Yevgeny Primakov, his Prime Minister, may be considering another political upheaval that Russia can ill-afford.

Russian newspapers all agreed at the weekend that a government shake-up was in the offing. "Primakov has Ten Days to become a Reformer" was *Sogodnya's* front-page headline, referring to Mr Primakov's imminent trip

to Washington. His survival was said to depend on returning with long-awaited International Monetary Fund grants. Desperate to prove that he is still a force to be reckoned with, Mr Yeltsin has undermined his Prime Minister by threatening to intervene personally if no deal is struck.

In another blow to Mr Primakov, a spokesman for Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen President, has accused him of not being "interested in the settlement of the Chechen problem". Mr Maskhadov has said he wants to deal personally with Mr Yeltsin.

Nevertheless, most observers doubt that the Prime Minister will be removed. Mr Yeltsin's recent bedside meetings with Yegor Stroyev, the head of the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, and Grigori Yavlinsky, the leader of the Yabloko party, can only be interpreted as a warning to Mr Primakov. Both men were considered for the post before Mr Primakov was proposed last September. The most popular candidate for dismissal by Mr Yeltsin remains Yuri Maslyukov, a First Deputy Prime Minister and the target of corruption alle-

gations. If Mr Yavlinsky, a reform economist, were to replace Mr Maslyukov as chief negotiator with the IMF, Russia's chances of receiving the much-needed loan could only be improved.

The removal of Mr Maslyukov would sour Mr Primakov's ties with the Communists, serving Mr Yeltsin's purpose of getting the communists out of Government. The President is eager that his legacy should be one of ridding Russia of communism.

The trouble with glasnost, page 20



Primakov: survival rests on winning IMF money

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هكذا في العمل

Exile for 'Bonaparte' but his conqueror is captive of business

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

It was still a matter of dispute at the weekend whether Oskar Lafontaine, known as the Napoleon of the Saar because of his small stature and big ambitions, was now on Elba or Saint Helena.

For photographers, he posed with toddler son on his shoulders outside his Saarbrücken home to demonstrate that he was now withdrawing into private life. But his anger at Gerhard Schröder is still great and his influence within the Social Democratic Party could yet make negative waves. On April 12, the Chancellor will stand for the chairmanship of

the party and Herr Lafontaine has the ability to make it difficult for Herr Schröder. Assuming, however, that Oskar really has met his Waterloo, how strong is the Chancellor? Has he won the decisive battle for control of the Government? The conflict between the two men was about social democratic economic strategy, about the kind of ideology that should accompany power.

Herr Lafontaine championed a modern Keynesianism, demand management, a boost to private consumption, more tax, more spending — and, supposedly, more jobs. Herr Schröder advocated a corporatist solution dependent on persuading big and medium-sized companies to invest more in job creation. That entailed wage restraint

on the part of the unions and tax concessions for industry. There were overlaps in the policies of both men and, on this narrow base of agreement, a ramshackle tax reform was constructed in the long term someone had to give.

One way of reading the events of the past few days is that capitalism has won. "Never in the recent history of Germany has big business been able to topple such a crucial pillar of government," said a disengaged commentator and certainly the representatives of industry have not stopped

crowding. A more precise interpretation would be that the modernisers in and around the Chancellery had successfully used the displeasure of industry to outflank the Finance Minister.

Herr Lafontaine knew it and, since he has a paranoid edge, blew it up into a huge conspiracy against him. His sneer that Herr Schröder is a "cashmere Chancellor" said it all: as far as he is concerned the Chancellor has become a puppet of the capitalists and has finally deserted the Social Democratic Party.

Oskar Bonaparte is more than halfway right about Herr Schröder. The Chancellor is a captive of big business. From the beginning he has overreacted to their threats and has not set precise limits on their influence. It is in the Chancellor's nature to act as an anchor man, a mediator between competing groups, rather than as a leader.

Typically, he calls in industrialists and bankers, asks them their view of what reforms are necessary and bounces the opinions off the trade unions. But the unions, crippled by an unemployment rate of more than 11 per cent, are far weaker and quickly crumble. Only Herr Lafontaine gave them bar-

gaining clout. The German leader is too easily swayed by articulate interest groups and by popular opinion.

If there were an intellectual core to his Government that would not matter too much, but there is not. The winners of last week's drama are clearly the modernisers — Bodo Hombach in the Chancellery, the Labour Minister, Walter Riester, and, if the Chancellor can bring the party behind him, Herr Schröder himself. Tomorrow the Chancellor heads for Britain, mainly on a routine pre-European summit scouting mission but also

to put the finishing touches to the joint Third Way document.

The Third Way dialogue between Downing Street and the Bonn Chancellery played a small but significant role in the downfall of Herr Lafontaine. A conversation which should have been conducted by the two party leaders became a Blair-Schröder event underlining that the Third Way is about power rather than belief.

Herr Lafontaine was suspicious of the loing and froing between London and Bonn. Now the Chancellor needs a modernising manifesto that has broad European support.

Lurch to right led Lafontaine to quit

Finance Minister says lack of collective responsibility left him isolated, Roger Boyes reports

A STRAINED and embittered Oskar Lafontaine yesterday broke his silence for the first time since resigning from the Finance Ministry and accused Gerhard Schröder's team of letting him down.

The 55-year-old German politician warned the Social Democratic Party not to swerve to the right after his departure. "The heart is not yet traded on the stock exchange. It has a home, and it beats on the left," he said.

The message was clear: the minister resigned because he felt that Herr Schröder, the Chancellor, was steering the Government too far towards the centre-right and making too many concessions to big business.

But Herr Lafontaine's explanation for his sudden and total withdrawal from politics will not satisfy the curiosity of many Germans who feel that something dramatic must have happened behind the scenes to derail such a committed politician. There were, he said, two reasons for his resignation. The first was political: "Without good teamwork you cannot work together successfully. Teamwork requires that you watch out for each other and that you stick together, especially in public," he said. Decided, this was Herr Lafontaine's way of criticising

Herr Schröder for his lack of public support when business corporations started to criticise the Government's tax reforms. Herr Lafontaine believes that the Chancellor's advisers used the public criticism of the tax reform to trip him up.

"When the team does not play well together, it has to be rebuilt... the new team is now in place and I wish it success in its work with Gerhard Schröder." The responsibility for the Government's mistakes, he indicated, should be shared out equally.

The second reason for the resignation, he said, was his need to be with his family and in particular his young son. "Ever since the assassination attempt on me (in 1990), I have been asking how much further I want to continue with this great burden for my family

and private life. And now I have made a decision for my private life. I hope the party will understand."

Friends of Herr Lafontaine say he had originally planned to resign in late May soon after the expected election of Social Democrat Johannes Rau as the next German President. The infighting within the Government merely accelerated the inevitable. But something

has experienced in the past nine years — he threw in not only a Cabinet position and the party chairmanship but also his mandate as a member of parliament.

His team in the Finance Ministry, meanwhile, is being quickly reshuffled. The architects of Herr Lafontaine's economic philosophy — Heiner Flassbeck and Claus Noe — are to leave the ministry by the end of March. Together they gave the intellectual backbone to Herr Lafontaine's attempts to politicise the economy. Hans Eichel, the incoming Finance Minister, is said to be considering bringing in Fritz Kuhn, a Green Party economist, as his chief official.

Many of the leading Green economists are more market-orientated than those advising their senior partner in Government, the Social Democrats. Herr Flassbeck had argued for lower interest rates and a new exchange-rate regime for the euro, yen and the dollar. He was widely ignored. Now, at the age of 47, Herr Flassbeck can, according to German press calculations, expect around £800,000 of pension and redundancy payments for his five months in office. He thus emerges as the main beneficiary of the power struggle.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Oskar Lafontaine carries his son Carl-Maurice, aged two, at his Saarbrücken home

Sleaze inquiry to name Cresson

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission sleaze saga will reach a climax tonight when Edith Cresson and other embattled Commissioners are due to be named in an official inquiry.

Mme Cresson, a former French Prime Minister, was summoned, with at least five colleagues, to the European Parliament last night to read the conclusions of the investigation which was launched under pressure from MEPs to examine individual commissioners' roles.

EU leaders are counting on the inquiry to purge the sleaze which has festered at the Commission, paralysing its authority at a key time for Union negotiations on reform. Mme Cresson, who is in charge of education, has been accused of nepotism in job appointments and is also under fire for the mismanagement of a multimillion-pound education programme. Depicting herself as a scapegoat, the commissioner has rejected calls to resign. Also under a cloud is Manuel Marin, the Spanish commissioner responsible for overseas aid.

Senior Commission sources say they expect the report to find some fault with individuals but to focus mainly on failures of management.

Ministers return to farm cash squabble

Brussels Britain, France and other states will demand fresh cuts in farm spending today, a week after Brussels proclaimed a radical new deal to revamp the common agricultural policy (CAP) of the European Union (Charles Bremner writes).

Finance ministers will hear criticism from the EU's biggest states about a £4 billion overrun in the farm budget agreed by ministers. Also at today's session, the EU will have its first discussion on efforts to bring taxes into line since the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine. Ministers are keen for evidence that the exit of "Red Oskar" has ended the confusion in Germany's management of EU affairs, nearly three months into its presidency.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French minister, are to join a

chorus of seven Governments which say that, without a cut in the CAP plan, there is little chance of an accord on overall EU spending reform at the Berlin summit.

Unhappiness over the CAP reform emerged at a weekend session of foreign ministers near Wiesbaden. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the EU was only half-way to a farm deal because the ministers had failed to trim the costs.

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		Gross %	AER %	Gross %	AER %	Gross %	AER %	Gross %	AER %
Nova Access Offshore	£150,000 - £250,000	6.00	6.00	5.00	5.17	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.64
	£250,000 - £1,000,000	5.50	5.50	4.50	4.66	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.14
	£1,000,000 - £2,500,000	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.16	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.64
	£2,500,000 - £5,000,000	4.50	4.50	3.50	3.66	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.14
Nova 30 Offshore	£150,000 - £250,000	6.10	6.10	5.10	5.27	5.60	5.60	5.60	5.74
	£250,000 - £1,000,000	5.60	5.60	4.60	4.77	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.24
	£1,000,000 - £2,500,000	5.10	5.10	4.10	4.27	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.74
	£2,500,000 - £5,000,000	4.60	4.60	3.60	3.77	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.24
Nova 75 Offshore	£150,000 - £250,000	6.25	6.25	5.25	5.42	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.89
	£250,000 - £1,000,000	5.75	5.75	4.75	4.92	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.39
	£1,000,000 - £2,500,000	5.25	5.25	4.25	4.42	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.89
	£2,500,000 - £5,000,000	4.75	4.75	3.75	3.92	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.39
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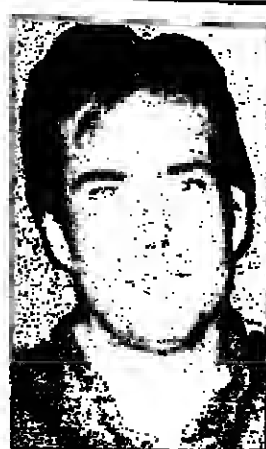
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Rudolph in hiding for more than a year

Fugitive blamed for clinic bombing

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S most wanted man, Eric Rudolph, is a suspect in an abortion clinic bombing close to the forested mountains where he is believed to be hiding. A large bomb exploded outside a clinic in Asheville, North Carolina, on Saturday, but part of the device failed to detonate and nobody was injured in the blast. President Clinton called the attack a "terrible act of senseless violence" and added: "Whether or not a terrorist's bomb achieves its deadly purpose, such cowardly criminal acts strike at the heart of the constitutional freedoms and individual liberties all Americans hold dear."

Mr Rudolph has been a fugitive since the bombing in January last year of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, in which an off-duty policeman was killed and a nurse badly injured. He has been charged in connection with that bombing and in three Atlanta attacks, including the 1996 Olympic Park bombing that killed one person.

Some 200 FBI agents have spent more than a year searching for the survival expert in the Nantahala forest, which is so dense a light aircraft that crashed there months ago has still not been found.

Ocalan avengers kill 13 in Istanbul

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TWO Kurdish groups have claimed responsibility for the fire-bombing of an Istanbul shopping complex at the weekend in which 13 people died, raising fears of more terrorist acts in retaliation for the abduction of Abdullah Ocalan.

A previously unknown organisation, calling itself the Kurdish Nationalist Revenge Brigade, and the "Falcon of Apo" said they carried out the attack during busy shopping hours on Saturday.

The National Liberation Front of Kurdistan (ERNK), an umbrella organisation that includes Mr Ocalan's Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), denied knowledge of the brigade but refused to condemn the attack. A Brussels-based spokeswoman said the bombing illustrated Kurdish anger and frustration. The Falcons of Apo is the nickname of Mr Ocalan — claimed responsibility, according to a private Turkish television station.

The PKK had indicated that it would intensify its war with Turkey after Mr Ocalan's abduction in Kenya and his continued imprisonment. The petrol bomb on Saturday was "undeniably part of that war", Mizgin Sen, of ERNK, said. The attack, the most serious so far, was the latest in a series of incidents that appear designed to disrupt the country ahead of next month's general election. Last Wednesday a taxi driver was killed in an explosion outside an Istanbul shopping centre.

The Foreign Office will today update its advice to people travelling to Turkey. The advice now is that visitors should take "sensible precautions" and be aware of the danger of going to certain areas.

Witnesses said that in the weekend attack two men and a woman hurled petrol bombs into the Mavi Carsi department store on the Asian side of

the city. A lack of fire exits and other safety measures raised the death toll. Many of the dead had rushed to the top of the six-storey building as the fire spread through the perfume and clothing departments on the ground floor.

Fast attacks in city centres have been sporadic, possibly because Turkish police were successful in frustrating the ability of Kurdish groups to move down from the mountains and into urban areas. Moreover, the PKK had also been reluctant to attract publicity for terrorist actions that would complicate its search for political legitimacy in the West. However, with Mr Ocalan awaiting trial on the prison island of Inirali, some of his supporters may feel they have little to lose by staying their hand.

Angered by the blast, the Turkish press registered its fury at European tolerance of the PKK's political presence. The mass-circulation *Hurriyet* ran a banner headline declaring, "This is your doing", above a picture of the gutted complex, and alleged that bleeding hearts in Western embassies were already "forming a queue to attend the trial of the baby murderer Abdullah Ocalan".

Bulent Ecevit, the Prime Minister, issued a warning that the country was slipping into a "atmosphere of turmoil", but he was referring less to Saturday's bombing than an attempt by a group of MPs to postpone the election scheduled for April 18. The group, known as "the disgruntled", consists of deputies who have not been re-elected as candidates.

Last night the Turkish Army reported that it had killed 17 PKK fighters, including the regional commander, in the eastern province of Batman.



Southern Africa's original inhabitants, members of the San or Bushman people, walk on the dunes of the Kalahari to visit an ancestral burial site. Victims of genocide perpetrated by invading black Bantus and white settlers, the tribes are this month hoping to regain some of the arid land now set aside in Northern Cape (Sam Kiley in Johannesburg writes). The community might have ownership returned to them as part of South Africa's post-apartheid land restitution programme. Seen as the ultimate human conservationists, the

Bushmen hope to regain land

San of South Africa seek to return to the freedom of a nomadic life. But their cousins in Botswana, where most of the vast Kalahari desert is denied to them, have recently been forced out of their ancestral lands on government orders.

Tuscan cathedral threatened with underground shop and car park

'Architectural jewel' is at risk from developers, Richard Owen writes

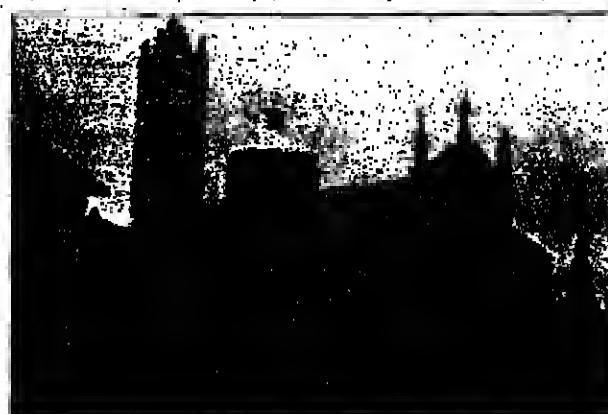
A ROW has broken out over plans to build a car park and supermarket under a Romanesque 13th-century cathedral in a Tuscan hill town popular with British visitors.

The soaring pink, white and green cathedral at Massa Maritima is prized by scholars and tourists because it has remained largely untouched since it was built between 1287 and 1304. According to one authority, it is one of the most beautiful and richly decorated churches in Tuscany.

Luca Sani, the left-wing mayor, said Massa Maritima only had one very small car park. "Like other Tuscan towns, we have enormous problems coping with rising numbers of visitors for the millennium," he said.

A plan approved by the town council envisages additional parking spaces and lock-up garages next to and beneath the cathedral, together with 10,000 square yards for commercial use. Local reports say a supermarket chain has put in a bid for the space, which would be created by demolishing old store-rooms next to the cathedral and excavating beneath it.

Critics of the scheme say it will endanger the fabric of the great cathedral and make Massa Maritima's traffic congestion worse by attracting cars into the ancient centre without widening medieval access roads. Massa Maritima, which has Etruscan and Roman origins, is set in the classic southern Tuscan landscape



The 13th-century cathedral at Massa Maritima

of cypress trees, chestnut trees, sunflower fields and Renaissance churches, with the added attraction of hot steam geysers. It is not far from San Gimignano, where Tony Blair and his family have spent their summer holidays for the past three years.

At one time situated on the Tuscan coast — hence the name — Massa Maritima is now 12 miles inland, thanks to the silting up of the coastal plain. Since medieval times, its wealth has derived from the mining of iron, lead, copper and silver. In the summer

it is taken over by British, French and German visitors, some of whom have bought and converted farmhouses in the nearby Maremma countryside, famed for its olive oil, honey and cheese.

La Repubblica said the cathedral and surrounding piazza formed "one of the architectural jewels" of Italy. "The cathedral is at risk, and could collapse altogether if this plan goes ahead," the paper said. Restoration of the cathedral has revealed its structural fragility, according to church officials. The foundations are said to be waterlogged, and the campanile, or belltower, is described as precarious. Some of the neighbouring buildings have been closed because of subsidence.

Signor Sani, however, insisted the scheme was viable, and said it would cost £1.5 million, a third of which would be met from state millennium funds.

that feeling of sliding into the smallest space in the street now comes with



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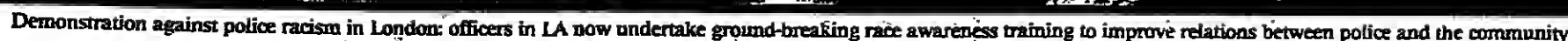
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Kyatt, a rabid producer in her forties who is pregnant with her third child, says: "I'd have my two and returned to work. Suddenly it seemed that there would be a third in the family. It scared that last chance."

"Since women have been able to control their fertility, we have erred towards keeping numbers down. Now we are getting more flexible about using it to have more than two."

"With more infertility, and women leaving it too late to have children, you are eroded these days for having kids — so why not take the opportunity to have one more?"

Molly Jones, a mother of two toddlers who is debating whether to have a third child, links the urge to hitting 40. "I always imagined that I'd have two," she says.

It was my parents and their friends who thought I was mad. But they are of the generation who urged their daughters not to do what they did — to get stuck at home with kids.

The psychologist Oliver James also links the three-child syndrome to the cycles of feminism. "The women who 15 years ago were aged about 40 were in the vanguard of the fight to reject their mothers' lives," he says. "They were not going to become domesticated at any cost. Today's women of the same age are more relaxed about the traditional role of motherhood."

Finally, there is the influence of economics. When the middle classes believe they are better off they have more children. Good news, then, for Gordon Brown's pro-family Budget.

Joe Levy, a lieutenant with Long Beach police, says, "We take them from a point of admitting that they all do it — it's only human, after all — and lead them to thinking what to do with it." As a cultural awareness instructor, he has taken about 200 groups to the museum over a three-year period.

Police officers in Long Beach spend a day at the Museum of Tolerance as part of a three-day diversity training course that includes candid meetings between law enforcement officials and ethnic community leaders.

Everyone learns a lot," Levy says. "Sometimes what the police take away is a simple promise to smile and wave more often. And the community leaders learn that we are human."

Despite fears that some older members of the force may be resentful of a more "consumer-friendly" style of policing, most attending the museum seem genuinely fascinated and, sometimes, deeply moved. Some described their visit as "eerily," "sobering" and even "numbing."

Patrick O'Dowd, who has worked as a community police officer in Long Beach for six years, says he will be a "better police officer and a better person" thanks to the course.

Some critics may label such an approach as typically Californian, too touchy-feely. But at least California, the most populous and the most ethnically diverse state in America,

Miele
Anything else is a compromise

PARIS FASHION WEEK

From android chic to sharp



WHILE Paris got on with being directional, the tireless search (which I started four weeks ago in New York) for some white summer trousers continued with, if I might say, admirable dedication.

White trousers are always a testing purchase but I now believe that I've found the solution to most trouser problems: Barbara Bui's shop, 23 Rue Etienne-Marcel, 75001. And when you find the ultimate trousers that fit perfectly, you will stick to that label for ever. Whether you want cut-offs, narrow legs, wide, pale blue, grey, brown, she's got them all — as well as those deceptively simple tops and apron-line dresses that you can never find in Britain. I am now on a one-woman mission to get her sold in the UK.

■ THE other mobbed-out shop in Paris is Paul and Joe at 46 Rue Etienne-Marcel, the source of every great catwalk look, done with inimitable French chic. It opened only a week ago but this slim, glass-fronted shop is already filled with hands clamouring for crocheted headscarves threaded with ribbon, multicoloured paisley silk halter-necks and embroidered flip skirts. For the collector of the little beaded bag (an accessory trend that doesn't seem to be anywhere near decline) there is a wall dedicated to the smallest brown and cream chrysanthemum flower bags with a smattering of sequins. The girly kitsch is carried through to the decor, with its hand-painted illustrations of avant-garde shoes and feathered hats.

■ SOME of the New Guard designers' attempts to be maddening are almost endearing. The brains behind 1Epicrie, the hip shop that is beloved by underground stylists and editors, which was opened by two twentysomething skateboarders on the Left Bank last summer, decided to stage a happening last week to snare some attention from the more overground publications. So far, so disappointingly conformist. They returned to form, however, when they decided to remove all the stock for the duration of Paris Fashion Week. Members of the fashion crowd who tracked down the store hoping to discover some of those combat prints that the shop did recently were confronted with piles of CDs.

■ RUMOURS of Naomi Campbell's £40,000 levy for appearing on the catwalk have been greatly exaggerated, it would seem. The five editors who turned up for the very intimate presentation put on by the new Australian designer Martin Grand were surprised to see Naomi pull up in her limousine just as the show was about to start — and step straight on to the catwalk. She was there free of charge, apparently, because André Leon Talley, American Vogue's editor-at-large, who is a friend of both parties, had asked her. It's the supermodel's version of downshifting.



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MUSIC
The fourth
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THE TIMES ARTS



VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor is pleased to see Charles I's court painter Orazio Gentileschi step out of the shadow of his daughter Artemisia



Spot the differences: *The Finding of Moses*, the late biblical masterpiece painted in two versions in the 1630s by the artist Orazio Gentileschi. He had to conform to English (left) and — perhaps more puritanical — Spanish tastes

In recent years Orazio Gentileschi has been condemned to live in the shadow of his daughter Artemisia. For the present intellectual climate, of course, Artemisia has all the advantages. She was one of the earliest women known and definable as a professional artist, living and working in the first half of the 17th century. She painted a famous and bloodthirsty version of *Judith Decapitating Holofernes* and several images of Judith with his head after the event, not to mention one of the most disturbed accounts of the Elders spying on Susanna. She could hardly help becoming a feminist icon.

Orazio, on the other hand, had nothing to declare but his talent. And on the rather unfair principle that one cannot elevate one family member

without somehow downgrading the other, he has been neglected: Artemisia got her big show in Florence eight years ago, while it is dubious whether Orazio has ever had a major show all to himself before the one now in London at the National Gallery, before going on to Bilbao and the Prado. Even this show is not one of those enormous international blockbusters, but at a mere nine pictures (plus a portrait of him by Van Dyck), it undoubtedly gains in depth what it may lack in breadth.

There are various reasons for its timing. Orazio had

strong English connections, coming to London in 1626 as court painter to Charles I and remaining there until his death in 1639. During his time in London he painted, notably, a group of paintings on biblical themes which hung in the Queen's House at Greenwich and were in some cases apparently designed for their place there. Of these the show reunites three: *Lot and his Daughters*, now in the Museo de Bellas Artes, Bilbao; *The Finding of Moses*, long at Castle Howard and now in a private, presumably British, collection; and *Joseph and Poti-*

er's Wife, sold, like the others, after Charles's execution in 1649 but returned to the Royal Collection at the Restoration. The 350th anniversary of Charles's death is only one trigger for the show. Another must have been the opportunity offered for bringing together the version of Gentileschi's late masterpiece *The Finding of Moses*, originally painted for Charles's queen, Henrietta Maria, and the even later, and some think even more masterly, version painted soon after, around 1633, for Philip IV of Spain and now residing in the Prado.

Hanging side by side on one wall, the two pictures resist easy ranking. The left-hand side of the composition varies very little between the two versions, but the right is quite different: one of the female figures pointing towards a decidedly English-looking landscape has been eliminated, and the other turns her attention away from the substituted, nondescript landscape towards the child. The kneeling figure on this side is in almost exactly the same pose, holding forward the basket with the baby, but in the Prado's version is fully dressed instead of

half-naked — a change possibly dictated by the more puritanical standards of the Spanish court. Both paintings are equally favourable examples of Gentileschi's later manner, which goes in for subtle, muted tones and tranquil, balanced compositions, eschewing the extravagant, contorted poses and unnerving changes of scale and perspective to be found in the early style, when he was strongly under the influence of his friend Caravaggio.

The show does give, in its relatively limited compass, a good idea of Gentileschi's de-

velopment, from the Caravaggesque *David Slaying Goliath* of about 1606 to the measured works of three decades later which anticipate Poussin. One thing is absolutely clear: we do not have to detract anything from Artemisia's singularity in order to value Orazio. His varied and international career, working in Rome, Genoa, Paris and finally London, enabled him to be a painter of subtle, poetic distinction, as well as a vital link between the wilder shores of Caravaggism and the ordered harmony of the great French classics. It is high time we took another look.

● National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-747 2885) until May 23

Father in the spotlight

He sings! He conducts! He's got Latin looks! He's the Fourth Tenor! This is perhaps how a fairground barker would advertise José Cura. In some respects, Thursday night's gala concert of operatic chunks belonged in a fairground, for not only did the strapping Argentine tenor, this great white hope, sing and conduct, he did both at the very same time.

As a visual spectacle, this took some beating. Doomed heroes galore from Verdi, Puccini and company were paraded before the Festival Hall audience, bewailing their lot, hearts breaking, facing death in recitative and aria.

But instead of supporting the voice and emotion with the odd wrenching gesture or imploring stab, Cura's hands and arms were busy beating time to the players behind him, flapping like a bird's wings, urging on the Philharmonia Orchestra strings or cursing a woodwind overlay. If it looked daft and dysfunctional to us, imagine how the Philharmonia felt, being conducted by a singing back.

Cura, to be sure, has every right to conduct. He is trained to do so; he is also a trained composer, with an oratorio, *Ece homo*, simmering somewhere on the back burner. The singing began comparatively recently — his stage debut was in 1992 —

All the fun of the fair

CONCERT

Philharmonia/Cura
Festival Hall

though Cura's ringing voice, pin-up looks, leonine profile and CD releases have already whipped up a large fan following. Internet shrine and all. It took only a few notes of Don Alvaro's Act III lament from *The Force of Destiny* for some of the man's magic to work: the tone clear as a bell, colour-coded chocolate brown.

But his is still a young tenor, unfit as yet for the dizzy heights of tragic anguish. Individual words throbbed with feeling: "Piango!" he cried in

"Sentio avampar nell'anima" from *Simon Boccanegra*, a hand briefly clutching his throat, shading the repeated phrase with all the rainbow's darker hues. Yet this was just a spot effect; for much of the time, the voice was mellifluous but functional, the man's energies distracted, no doubt, by the business of waving those arms.

Not that the Philharmonia seemed to need much guidance in this concert (sponsored by Rosenblatt Solicitors). The *Force of Destiny* overture made it perfectly clear we were in safe hands: their clear, burnished tone and dramatic sense was a joy throughout. For "Vesti la giubba" from *Pagliacci*, Cura the conductor took great delight in drawing out a growl from the double-basses at the end; an amusing stunt, though for aural glory nothing could match the Philharmonia's handling of the prelude to Puccini's *Il Tabarro*, soaked in the atmospheric of the Seine at night.

At the end came the cheers, the encores, and the presentation of a notably small bouquet. "For me?" Cura pantomimed. Perhaps the flowers would have multiplied had the conducting been left to another.

A promising voice, then; but a rather ridiculous evening.

GEOFF BROWN

Big band bonanza

POP

NOW that "retro" means anything up to the grunge-rock formula of the early 1990s, it takes a bold leap of the imagination to adopt a sound and style from the pre-rock'n'roll era as your musical template. But in the same way the Mavericks and BR5-49 revitalised the forgotten genres of Western swing and the country torch song, so Brian Setzer has reinvented big band music, sparking off an unlikely craze in America for the brass-driven sounds, dance-steps and fashions of the 1940s and 1950s.

Setzer, formerly of rockabilly revivalists the Stray Cats, began his unlikely campaign as long ago as 1993 in the face of implacable media and industry indifference. Last month he was rewarded with two Grammy awards for songs on the Brian Setzer Orchestra's third album, *The Dirty Boogie*, which has now sold more than two million copies in America.

At the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Friday, he radiated the self-confidence of a man who was not just vindicated, but on a roll. Wearing brother-creep shoes and a shiny black suit festooned with big silver stars, his blond quiff set at an improbably jaunty angle, the 38-year-old Setzer looked like a cartoon character, an effect which was reinforced by his 15-man band who were

all immaculately attired in lime green dinner suits and seated in neat rows behind their rabbit-hutch music stands.

In a set paced like a runaway train, they romped through a mixture of old songs such as *Jump Five An' Walk*, *Let The Good Times Roll* and *Since I Don't Have You* together with various of Setzer's own compositions in the same idiom, including *Switchblade 327*, *This Cat's On A Hot Tin Roof* and *The Dirty Boogie*. Despite the immense firepower of the horns, and an impressively litterbugging rhythm section, it was Setzer's guitar playing which dominated the sound, investing the music with a contemporary rock'n'roll edge, but at the same time betraying the necessarily ersatz nature of the enterprise.

While the show was executed by Setzer with brazen panache, his virtuoso fretboard displays were frequently more about flash than feeling, especially on a version of the instrumental standard *Sleepwalk* where the poignant melody was buried beneath flourishes of unnecessary notes.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Education of a foxy lady

THEATRE: The stage is in her blood but Emilia Fox took to it rather late, she tells Michael Owen

When Emilia Fox went to boarding school at 13, she made two discoveries. The first was that her fellow boarders had seen her parents, Edward Fox and Joanna David, on television and considered that somewhat exceptional. "I had no idea my family did anything unusual until then," she says.

The second discovery could have been more painful, as she became aware that her parents had never married, despite maintaining a stable joint home since before her birth. "That did come as a surprise, knowing that I could be called a bastard — not that anyone ever did. But I look at them now, see the companionship they have and think how fortunate they are."

A decade or so on, Fox is turning out to be a discovery in her own right. Just 24 and three years out of Oxford, she is rattling through a range of roles on stage and TV which suggest she is one of the most compelling actresses of her generation.

She was plucked from St Catherine's College, where she was reading English, to play Georgina D'Arcy in BBC TV's *Pride and Prejudice*, then followed it with another classier serial as Mrs De Winter in *Rebecca* (a role her mother played before her).

In the theatre she played Anya in Adrian Noble's *The Cherry Orchard* and last year took the title role in *Katherine Howard* at Chichester. Just when she seemed set for a career in lung frocks, she broke the mould with some distinctly contemporary parts, most notably as the punkish architect in Stephen Pollakoff's *Shooting the Past* on TV.

Now she is poised to take her first leading role on the London stage, joining Charles Dance in Donmar Warehouse's revival of C.P. Taylor's *Good*. Set in 1930s Berlin, it tells of a college professor's descent into Nazism, taking with him the girl who has become his besotted student and lover.

Slight and slender, with direct brown eyes, Fox has inherited her mother's gentleness and just occasionally reveals the ganey grin that frequently lights up her father's face. "Everyone wants to be at the Donmar or Almeida these days, don't they?" she asks rhetorically. "I feel very lucky."

Her character in *Good* begins in blissful naivety. "She does not see the evil around her. She is blinkered by the process of falling in love. But by the end she is forced to see the evil and particularly in proximity to the person she loves. It is a dark piece. I believe it is important to have a

character who perversely and paradoxically stays on an up-lifted level."

Good was also described by its author as a musical comedy. And Fox plays the cello on stage. Two years ago she also demonstrated her piano skills in the television film *The Temptation of Schubert*.

"I played both from the age of four: I got all the grades but never thought about music as a profession. I was enough of a show-off to play in front of a few people but it would have been too nerve-racking to go in front of an audience. I wasn't that good."

Given her family background, which includes the producer Robert Fox and the actor James Fox as uncles, a grandfather who was a celebrated agent and actresses who go back a further two generations, she decided on acting surprisingly late.

"At school, I didn't know what I wanted to do. Then I was put up for Oxford. Having seen my parents go through the ups and downs of the most precarious profession in the world, it seemed like an insurance policy."

'Oxford seemed like an insurance policy'

But once at Oxford she threw herself into the acting fraternity. Then she was summoned to *Pride and Prejudice*, although she still managed a respectable 2:1 degree.

"The finals were so traumatic that no first night can seem as frightening in comparison," she says. She is now proud to be following in the family tradition. "I did have a few misgivings at first. It has been important to me to get a whole range of work under my belt to show that this is me and I'm not like my Mum and Dad. My ambition is never to be pigeon-holed. I was seen as vulnerable and demure for a while but I think I have now proved that I can be strong and modern."

Fox will be seen in April in the winner of 1948-49 TV film *Bad Blood*. She plays the scrub nurse to Alex Jennings's surgeon. "We had to go and watch open-heart surgery, to feel the feel of an operating theatre. I felt really queasy. But at least I didn't pass out like a flakey girl."

Since she has been exposed to so much theatre in her early years, what shows made a lasting impression? She dutifully mentions her father in *The Philanthropist* and her mother in *The Cherry Orchard*. Then the Fox grin settles in place. "But the one I'll never forget was at the Unicorn Theatre. *TinTin and the Black Island* — that was just the best."

Good opens at the Donmar (0171-369 1732) on March 22.



"I was seen as vulnerable and demure for a while," says a demure-looking Emilia Fox, "but I can be strong and modern"

Nottingham Playhouse celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. In the winner of 1948-49 TV film *Bad Blood*, she plays the scrub nurse to Alex Jennings's surgeon. "We had to go and watch open-heart surgery, to feel the feel of an operating theatre. I felt really queasy. But at least I didn't pass out like a flakey girl."

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A powerful way to celebrate

tours, the last of these being *Endgame*, the other half of his Beckett double bill, which goes to Weimar to take part in the theatre festival in this year's European City of Culture.

It is a production that can only reinforce Nottingham's international reputation. On Wolfgang Goppel's ferociously black and white set, James Bolam's Hamm sits hunched upon his throne like a monstrous Grandpa Buggins. Compensating for a lightness of voice by intoning his words, the poetic and the ferocious — and they are sometimes one and the same —

he creates a grimly fascinating tyrant, bossing but dependent upon Alastair McGowan's angular Clov. Beckett's plays oblige his actors to become clowns and McGowan's morose agility, the hand-dog posture with curly hair flopping, spreadeagled in a doorway three times his height, vividly conveys the (just) comic bleakness of absurdly total desolation.

Desolation famously marks the life of Krapp, listening on his 69th birthday to tapes he made half a lifetime before. Neville, with the wild hair and red nose of an unreformable toper, trots round his antique tape-recorder with a pedant's hobbie just a foolish old man. But as the tape winds forward and memories of lost love wrenched back to a terrible sobriety. His head sinks on to the table, he rallies and stares at us as darkness closes in upon him. He leaves us with a powerful image to celebrate a multiple anniversary.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Cool under pressure

Just to think of Simon Block makes me nervous. His people hang onstage with their palms sweating and their hearts racing and, many of them, their egos bent on making others feel even more edgy. Only David Mamet, American author of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, has a better claim than our all-British Block to be called the bard of modern stress or chronicler of pressure-cooker living.

Another of his idiosyncrasies is to choose offbeat situations. His *Not a Game for Boys* involved a war for dominance among cabbies playing in a ping-pong league. His *Chimps* was about salesmen who, when not embattled with each other, were busy forcing silicone-based water-repellent on harried householders. No great surprise, then, to find that *No Exp. Req'd.*, his latest play, concerns two spivvy brothers who advertise for cartoonists to help them with their new wheeze, which is to make colourful visiting cards

No Exp. Req'd. Hampstead

for upwardly mobile kids.

The play is aimed largely at teenagers, which may explain why it is more schematic and didactic than Block's previous work. He has even introduced a *raisonneuse* in Helen Schlesinger's kindly Marilyn, a PA or (more accurately) tea-maker who intermittently steps out of the action to deliver *penances* about bosses, jobs, industrial relations and so on.

She has plenty to discuss, for happily Block has lost none of his energy. Dim brother Dave (Tom Watt), who is desperate to enrich his wife and child, and aggressive brother Andy (Jay Simpson), who is as keen on power as on money, have a deadline to meet. They are constantly on the phone to their brother-in-law, threatening to "burn down your house with you stapled to the door" if he fails to produce the promised computer software on time. But Andy needs victims, and finds them in Jules (Kaye Wragg) and Clark (the baldy named A.J.), two school-leavers beguiled by his wiles.

At times the play resembles an employment advice manual, for Andy contrives to be racist and sexist, a cheat, a proser and an appalling bully. But then they learn that he needs them more than they need him, and take their revenge. The play is not just a big tritum, however, and the sentimentality that threatens at the end is just a blind. Block is still Block, and in Andy he has created a character that Simpson relishes playing and I relish watching: a mean-faced monster for the millennium.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

This week in THE TIMES



THEATRE

Sophie Okonedo stars in a new *Truitts and Cressids* at the National Theatre. OPENS: Tonight. REVIEW: Wednesday



MUSIC

Jolly japes with Oliver Knussen as he conducts two of his fantasy operas. CONCERT: Wed. QEH. REVIEW: Friday



FILM

Just paranoia? Jeff Bridges watches his neighbour in the thriller *Arlington Road*. RELEASED: Friday. REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA

Alastair Miles sings the title role in ENO's staging of Boito's *Mephistopheles*. OPENS: Thursday. REVIEW: Saturday

ART GALLERIES

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE
No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 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Uncle Sam falls out with his buddies

The US and Europe are at odds over more than bananas

Europe's relations with the United States have become awkward and fractious. Tensions range from trade, via currencies, to defence. So there is a discordant note about the 50th anniversary of the Atlantic Community, to be marked by a grand summit in Washington next month following the enlargement of Nato to include the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. The genuine reasons for celebration are qualified by doubts about the future of the transatlantic alliance.

Attitudes have also been soured by several unrelated incidents, minor in themselves but highly emotive — the acquittal in a military court of the American pilot responsible for severing the cable of a ski gondola in northern Italy which resulted in the death of 20 people, and the execution of a German citizen in Arizona. Moreover, the escalation of the long-running dispute over bananas is being depicted as the start of a full-blown trade war. Such American behaviour is seen by some in Europe as a symptom of what the political scientist Samuel Huntington has called a "rogue superpower".

During the Cold War, each event would have been played down or more easily contained. But the disappearance of the Soviet threat has allowed differences to surface in a more damaging way. The current malaise is rooted in this lengthy adjustment to the post-Cold War world.

Americans and Europeans both have ambivalent attitudes. Washington has always favoured closer European integration but is apprehensive when it starts to happen. Europe wants a stronger collective voice and role of its own, yet has often been ineffective and depends on US military power.

American support for a larger European role has partly been in the name of burden-sharing — that is, more money and troops from this side of the Atlantic. However, Washington became alarmed last autumn when Tony Blair's proposals for giving credibility to the European Union's common foreign and security policy were followed by the British-French declaration at St Malo about giving Europe a capacity to act on its own where the US might not wish to deploy troops.

The Americans were partly concerned by what they saw as a lack of full consultation beforehand, especially by London, and by some of the "Euro" language involved. Their main worries were over decoupling — that is, Nato being undermined by a separate European caucus — and the possibility of discrimination against those European members of Nato who are not members of the EU, chiefly Turkey and Norway as well as the three new entrants. The Americans feared that the British were going along with a French desire to create a separate European security structure. Perversely, that would suit the growing group in the US Congress that would like Europe largely to look after its own defence, with

America merely as a back-up while it concentrates on the rest of the world.

The British Government mounted an immediate campaign of reassurance that Nato would remain at the centre of European security and that there was no intention of creating a European army, nor of creating any decision-making role for the European Commission or European Parliament in military matters. London's close links with Washington were demonstrated shortly afterwards when Britain was the only European country to join the US in attacking Iraq. This was seen in France as contradicting the spirit of the St Malo declaration and demonstrating yet again the reluctance of the British to commit themselves fully to Europe, an echo of de Gaulle's reasons for the original veto against British membership in 1963.

As George Robertson, one of the Cabinet's successors, noted in his interview with *The Times* last Tuesday, the British aim is less to change institutions than to improve Europe's defence capabilities. At present, few European troops can be deployed quickly to somewhere such as the Balkans and few aircraft can undertake precision bombing. That gap is filled by the Americans.

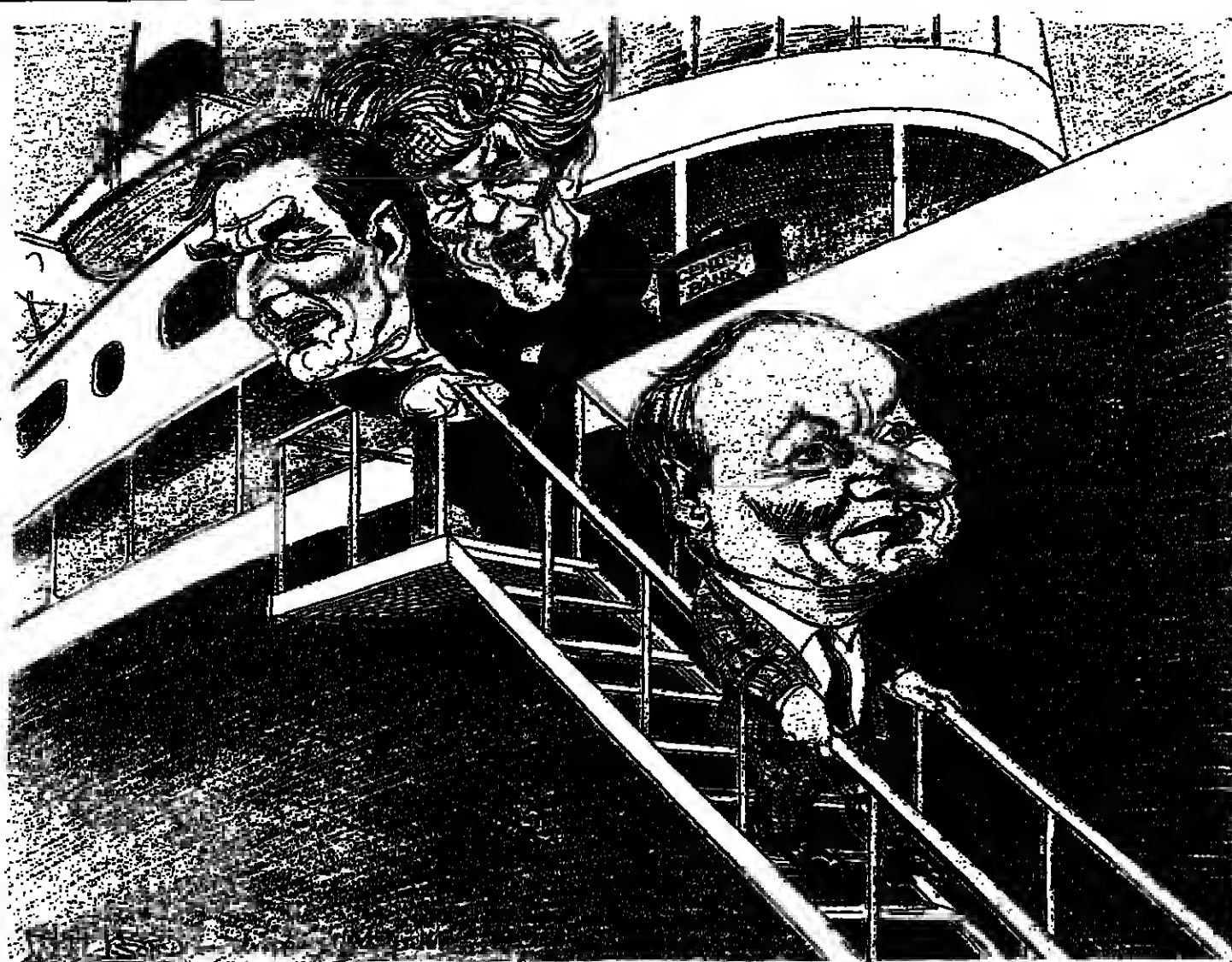
However, last Thursday's debate in the House of Representatives revealed widespread misgivings about the commitment of troops to Kosovo in a peace-keeping role, although it was narrowly approved. Kosovo provides the severest test both of Nato's new role — and the revised "strategic concept" to be discussed in Washington — and of the European contribution. If the talks which restart today fail, Nato planes may be attacking Serbia before Easter.

This defence debate is matched by the ambivalent US attitude towards the euro, now that it has become a reality. Washington supports the idea, provided Europe remains outward-looking and does not become protectionist. (Europeans can, of course, turn that point around against growing protectionism in the US.) The Americans want to avoid a "fortress Europe", either economically or strategically, stressing enlargement to the east and that barriers should not be erected to Turkey.

Tony Blair is typical of postwar British leaders in being torn. He sees more clearly than most of his predecessors that Britain's future lies in Europe and that talk of a fifty-first state or an independent global role is nonsense. But he retains an affinity with the Americans, both in their economic attitudes and on most foreign policy issues.

Yet, as American policymakers often point out, Britain's influence in Washington is directly dependent on the extent to which it is involved in the EU. Hence Britain risks marginalising itself doubly by standing aside from Europe, and from the euro.

Despite the fact that he could easily have thrust himself forward as a man of the people in the Yeltsin mould (born to a peasant family in 1931, the very year his village was collectivised, he worked the fields, lost relatives to purges and wars and worked his way painstakingly up the party ladder in Stavropol,



Oskar starved to death

Why did Oskar Lafontaine resign? There was, no doubt, more than a touch of the George Brown or, for that matter, the Gordon Brown resentment. He was a frustrated candidate for the leadership, beaten by someone he thought was the more superficial man, who had a better touch with the public. He is probably also something of a manic depressive, as many leading politicians are; mild manic depression is a condition favourable to success in politics. No doubt he felt frustrated to see Gerhard Schröder as Chancellor, a man he considers to have no core beliefs, let alone socialist ones. Yet, even so, why did he resign?

The answer struck me at lunchtime on Saturday. We were having family lunch at Ston Easton Park, a beautiful Palladian house in Somerset. We lived there until 1978; it is now a first-class country house hotel, complete with an 18th-century ghost and a wide-ranging wine list. We go there to celebrate family occasions with children and grandchildren. We sat down at the table at 11 on Saturday; some are vegetarians, most were eating roast beef, one was eating chicken.

A finance minister, any finance minister, has a meal to eat. He, or she, has two implements of policy, the budget and the interest rate, like a knife and a fork on his plate. Using both the knife and the fork in a co-ordinated way, he can get the food into his mouth. Without the knife, he cannot cut the meat; without the fork, he cannot eat the peas. Vegetarians can just about manage with a fork only, but beef-eaters cannot.

Like us, there are 11 finance ministers sitting at the euro-table. They all have their own forks; they have control of their national budgets and can push the food around the plate, or into their own ever-open mouths, as Gordon Brown did the other day. Unfortunately for them, there is only one euro-knife; that is not in front of them but in the hands of the butler, who cuts their food, beef, chicken or vegetarian, into the same size pieces, as suits his fancy. The finance ministers of euroland have no influence on interest rates; if they dare so much as to ask the butler for a loan of the knife, he gives them a stern look and sends them to the back of the queue. The meal is not a happy one: the euro-table is not recommended.

Oskar Lafontaine did not resign

Why European finance ministers all face the same fate as knifeless diners

just because he detests Gerhard Schröder, though undoubtedly he does. He did not resign simply because he has some very foolish ideas about policy, though he does. He resigned out of frustration, because he could not do his job. In his view the German economy urgently requires lower interest rates, if it is to avoid recession. He may well be right. Germany has a high-cost, high-unemployment, low-growth economy. He was undoubtedly wrong to want to put up industrial costs still further, but probably right to want the European Central Bank to cut rates. All he got was a contemptuous rejection by Wim Duisenberg, who was not having anyone as unimportant, as irrelevant, as the Finance Minister of Germany presuming to tell the ECB what its interest rates ought to be.

The separation of the treasury and Central Bank functions makes the job of finance ministers impossible. How does it work in countries where there is an independent central bank, such as the United States and, now, Britain? The answer is co-ordination. The Treasury and the Bank of England, the US Treasury and the Federal Reserve, do indeed have independent powers, but they have a common objective of economic success and are under common pressures of opinion, democracy and the national interest. They are continuously involved in consultation and joint projects. They are like a diner who has a fork in his left hand and a knife in the right; left and right hands work together to eat the meal.

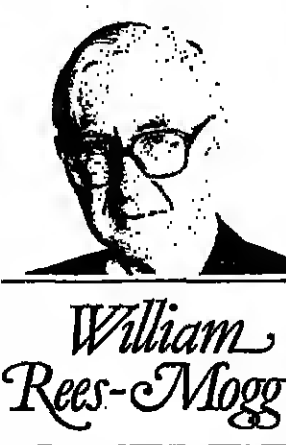
Oskar Lafontaine had already drawn the correct conclusion from this, a conclusion that has long been shared by British Eurosceptics with the majority of European statesmen, such as Chancellor Kohl. Eleven forks and one knife will not work. The choice is between 11 forks and 11 knives, or one European fork

and one European knife — in short, a single European government. Only one set of people any longer pretend that 11 plus one is workable. They are the British promoters of joining the euro, and they, to be frank, are lying through their teeth. A single currency can only work if there is a single government.

This proposition was clear to Oskar Lafontaine, which was why he was advocating tax harmonisation and political integration. He had come to realise that his job was impossible. In this respect, nothing has been changed by his resignation; the German Government is still committed to integration, and the German Finance Minister's job is still impossible, all the more so because it is now held by Hans Eichel, perhaps a political nonentity, though still a euro-federalist.

The departure of Lafontaine is not the victory for Chancellor Schröder that has been claimed. Heads of government who lose their finance ministers are usually damaged and often destroyed by it. Margaret Thatcher was damaged politically by Nigel Lawson's resignation, far more than by Geoffrey Howe's speech. Although they shared responsibility for the 1992 exchange-rate fiasco, John Major was further damaged when he dismissed Norman Lamont in 1994. Schröder's Red-Green coalition seems now to be held below the waterline. Germans detest weak leadership. Schröder looks like an indecisive leader, a political fixer rather than a statesman. It was, in the end, Lafontaine who found that he could not go on with Schröder, not the other way round.

Downing Street, whose all-spin band has become a laughable feature of modern British politics, also claimed victory, as it always does. Alastair Campbell would claim victories for the West Indies cricket team if Brian Lara was in



William Rees-Mogg

Downing Street. In fact, the Lafontaine resignation has checked the apparently triumphant march of European social democracy, and that of the euro itself. The glory days are over, at least in Germany; they lasted only a few brief months.

Wim Duisenberg may be said to have won. Germany is euroland's biggest and most powerful economy; Oskar Lafontaine was not only the Finance Minister, but the chairman of the ruling party. He, and not Chancellor Schröder, was the leading figure of the German Left. Duisenberg and the European Central Bank were able not only to reject his demand for a lower interest rate, but to do so with contempt.

There is a price to pay, even for that victory. Germany needs lower interest rates, as indeed does Italy. The ECB has demonstrated that it will not run the euro for the benefit even of Europe's most powerful economy. The euro is a solipsistic currency, existing for its own sake, not for the economic welfare of the 11 nations, either collectively or individually. The sacred euro-knife must be sharpened and beautiful; it is too good to be used to cut meat.

Before the single currency even began, the Maastricht treaty was a great destroyer of European politicians. The currency issue brought down Margaret Thatcher. Maastricht destroyed John Major and inflicted the worst election defeat for 165 years on the Conservatives. The preparations for the single currency turned out sitting governments all over Europe, in France repeatedly, in Italy perhaps — though corruption confuses that record — and finally in Germany.

Now we know that the logic of Maastricht is working its havoc through the single currency. Those of us who always argued that Maastricht would destroy the power of governments to manage their national economies now see it happening in euroland. Germany needs lower interest rates, Germany cannot have them: Lafontaine goes, the euro sails on, though looking somewhat seedy. The euro is the black spot of European politics. Who will be next to receive it? Gerhard Schröder himself, very probably. Lionel Jospin, more than possibly. In the end, I suspect, we shall see the black spot on the political tombstone of Tony Blair himself.

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Mayor's muscle

AS LENNOX LEWIS mulls over his little injustices, his manager is hitting the campaign trail. Frank Maloney, now negotiating a rematch for his bruised charge, wants to run for mayor of London, and hopes to wheel out Lewis to fight his corner for him.

"I want to stand as a totally independent non-political Londoner," says Maloney, who plans to devote six months to fighting Livingstone, Archer *et al*. But what role might Lewis play? "I think he could be very useful in certain community sections," the quibbling Cockney offers, with the diplomacy of an instinctive politician.

SHAKESPEARE out of love. Trudi Styler — Mrs Sting (below left) — has asked the cast of *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* to play Romeo and Juliet at the Globe on Saturday. Ethan Hawke and Jack Dee will also be doing their bit for Trudi's Tibetan peace garden. Vinnie Jones (below right) is still debating whether to don his tights.



A CASE for Inspector Wexford. Why does the Government want Baroness Rendell of Babergh, the crime-writing Labour peer, to set one of her "thrillers" in the Millennium Dome? As Lord Falconer of Thorornton tries to whip up intellectual support for the erection, some of his colleagues have suggested that Rendell should write a tale about it. "I am a liaison peer for the project," the baroness tells me. "But it is not really my sort of place."

WHEN Sean Connery complains, people listen. Coughing and wheezing in a *Heathrow* drawing room, Connery muttered that his chosen airline could do with a no-smoking lounge. By the next day, one had been created.

JIM DAVIDSON, MP. This challenging prospect is being floated by desperate types in Central Office who think that the boorish, multi-married "comedian", recently elected to the arch-Tory Carlton Club, could boost party morale. "I can see why the Labour Party might want me to stand — it wouldn't work," Davidson tells me. "MPs are expected to be saints, which wouldn't suit me. Soon we will be left with transposers in the Commons." He adds, charmingly: "They would catch me shagging or something within a week."

CHRIS SMITH is tiring of Islington council, home to generations of *Judging Labourites*. Asked by his local boat club to lobby for more borough funds, Smith attested that "they are a very efficiently run organisation", noting: "By comparison with the borough council ... they provide real value."



MICHAEL PORTILLO's interest in Wagner was cultivated in office. Michael Stern, the former MP, remembers labouring with Portillo over the Finance Bill in 1994 (the bequeathed one was Chief Secretary to the Treasury). "He said politics reminded him of Parsifal, whose spear kept coming back."

SIR PAUL McCARTNEY, recovering from the death of his wife, is feeling karmic: he is campaigning to release a Tibetan from a Chinese jail. Ngawang Choepel was given 18 years for collecting Tibetan folk music; McCartney has written to him, lobbied the Chinese Government and met his mother.

RIGHT to Roam meant little to Stanley Kubrick. As Hollywood's finest assembled for the director's funeral at Chiddingfold Manor, his Hertfordshire country estate, a neighbour told me that locals had been incensed by Kubrick slapping a "private property" sign at the end of an ancient public bridleway. "He was a complete pain."

JASPER GERARD

'The trouble with glasnost was that once people felt freer, once everything was out in the open, Gorbachev got the blame for it'

By 1991 Mikhail Gorbachev, the last General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, had already been consigned to the pleasures of the international lecture circuit by his rival, Boris Yeltsin. It is fairly clear who got the better deal. Today that very lecture circuit brings a slick, reinvented, elder-statesman-style Gorbachev to King's College, Cambridge, and a symposium called Russia on the Eve of a New Millennium.

This is, of course, the dream event for those who love to speculate on the future of Russia as though it is something that must be resolved once and for all and, fortunately for Mikhail Sergeyevich, the audience will be mostly non-Russian. For back in the former USSR he would be hard pushed to find any audience for his ruminations.

Here he is still loathed as a

man who betrayed his past, who sold the Soviet Union to the West for a few dollars and who let his country disintegrate before his eyes. In the mid-1980s, while Gorbachev gripped the English-speaking world, Russians were wondering where the booze had gone. Although there are many and complex reasons for Gorbachev's lack of popularity at home, for he will always be someone who destroyed rather than created, the thing that Russians hold against him more than anything else is his apparently miscalculated prohibition.

Despite the fact that he could easily have thrust himself forward as a man of the people in the Yeltsin mould (born to a peasant family in 1931, the very year his village was collectivised, he worked the fields, lost relatives to purges and wars and worked his way painstakingly up the party ladder in Stavropol,

this mistake set him apart from them.

But this was 1985 and Gorbachev seemed to have hit upon what was (and in fact still is) the problem with the Soviet Union. "Our rockets can find Halley's comet and reach Venus," he said. "But our bridges don't work." Now, of course, the rockets are not up to much, either.

Alcohol, he decided, was at the root of the problem, and the man who became known as the "mineral water secretary" rather than the General Secretary clamped down on it with a vengeance. Opening hours for shops selling alcohol were curtailed and queues stretched around the block. Alcohol was banned from official receptions and 150 million decilitres of

Anna Blundy



samogon, or moonshine, were produced a year, resulting in an untold number of fatal poisonings. Shops did a roaring trade in perfumes.

A well-known Gorbachev-era joke goes as follows: A man is waiting in line for vodka. After four hours, he says "OK, I've had enough of this. I'm going to the Kremlin to kill Gorbachev." A few hours later, he comes back to resume his place in the queue. "So? Did you kill him?" ask his fellow queuers. "No. The queue to do that was even longer," he sighs.

The telling thing is that there were any Gorbachev-era jokes. There were never any jokes about Stalin. The trouble with glasnost was that once people felt

freer, once everything was out in the open, Gorbachev got the blame for it.

Suddenly the theatres were producing plays about Stalinist purges, the sites of mass graves were being uncovered, the world was told about the Chernobyl disaster, dissidents told stories of their exile, imprisonment and torture, the huge-scale corruption of party bosses and the unimaginable privileges of the elite were revealed. And the stretch of all this rot, with which Gorbachev was barely associated, stuck to the very man who wished to dispense with it by exposing it.

Also, as far as cultured Russians were concerned, the guy was a fake. He had cleaned up his Russian and you could almost be fooled into believing that he was an intelligent, but every now and then his southern peasant twang would slip out

and intellectuals would fall about sniggering at the country boy who pretended to be a gentleman. Even today you only have to misplace the stress on the word "to begin" at a dinner party and people will laugh at your witty imitation. He was saved from acquiring such a blemish in the West by his brilliant English interpreter, who singlehandedly made his employer seem a worthy bantering partner for Clive Anderson.

Mikhail Gorbachev is adored by the West partly because America sets so much store by freedom of speech. In Russia, it was always joked that Gorbachev failed to provide food, clothing, security and the continuation of a way of life, but he managed to provide freedom of speech. "But the thing is, most of us didn't have anything to say."

comment@the-times.co.uk



EXCESS LOAD

The Budget has hit the road haulage industry too hard

The Government's 1998 Comprehensive Spending Review described Britain's transport system as "overcrowded, under-planned and under-maintained". Since public investment in transport accounted for only 20 per cent of the £38 billion it was then raising in fuel and other road taxes, some may see that as unsurprising. Although rail freight has grown since privatisation, road transport takes most of the strain of moving goods and people around this country. Road haulage carries four fifths of all freight, an annual 1.65 billion tonnes of goods. A Budget supposedly geared to promote enterprise and improve Britain's competitiveness would not therefore, it might be thought, impose further steep taxes on a road haulage industry which already pays many times more for vehicle licences and fuel than its continental competitors. Yet that is what this year's Budget, whose fiscal complexities become daily more apparent, will do.

Gordon Brown sugared the pill with some headline-catching "green" gestures, cutting vehicle excise taxes for "clean" buses and small vans as well as small cars. But the great bulk of haulage operations continues to be burdened with taxes that are many times continental levels; and for 38-tonne heavy goods vehicles, the workhorses of Britain's most competitive fleets, licences will now rise from £3,310 to £5,750 a year. The EU average tax in this class is £1,100 — and £459 in France. The industry has also been hard-hit by the Budget's 14 per cent increase in tax on diesel, which raises the cost of filling a 1,000-litre lorry tank to £644, compared with £340 in Belgium and £370 in France.

The costs will be borne not only by the 53,000 who, according to today's leading

letter to *The Times*, could lose their jobs between now and the next general election; they will be felt throughout business and industry, because they will drive up costs overall. These imposts come, moreover, on top of road and fuel duty increases since 1997 which, before this Budget, were already due to net the Treasury an extra £8.7 billion by 2001-02.

If Gordon Brown was motivated by green ambitions and believed that the impact would be to shift haulage to rail, he should have thought more carefully. The combination of just-in-time deliveries and gaps in the rail networks means that there is no workable substitute for efficient road transport; it makes little sense, therefore, to put British operators at the mercy of foreign competitors whose costs are considerably lower. Thanks to the single market, the biggest companies have an alternative: they can register their fleets abroad, as many now plan to do. That is harder for small operators which primarily serve the domestic market and would find re-registration too expensive. The exponential increase in the numbers of foreign lorries entering Britain shows how effectively they are being undercut. Either way, the Government will lose tax revenues, and British people will lose employment.

The Government should think again. Business has already been the biggest loser from Labour's people-friendly Budgets. The new Budget's "business-friendly" measures, aimed at helping small businesses, are so complex that the chief beneficiaries are likely to be accountants. Clarity about ends and simplicity of approach used to be accounted virtues in Chancellors: the road haulage taxes offer a good example of the abiding need for both.

IRANIAN OVERTURE

The West should listen to Iran's new young democratic voices

Iran presents two faces to the world. One still bears the hard features of Ayatollah Khomeini, deeply reactionary and viscerally hostile to the West. The other is of a people sick of isolation and the corrupt medievalism of Iran's theocratic experiment. This other face is represented by President Mohammad Khatami, whose trips to Italy last week and France next month are the first visits by an Iranian leader to Europe in the two decades since the Islamic revolution. Mr Khatami is not yet master in the divided Iranian house. But his overtures to the West reflect real changes in Iran; and its spirited grassroots movement deserves to be taken seriously.

The travels in the West of this relatively liberal cleric follow an electoral triumph last month for the liberals he leads at home. In local elections, they swept in their thousands into municipal councils and mayors' seats, creating new power bases for the young and outward-looking, notably including women. This ballot-box revolt against the forces of Islamism reaction has not unseated them yet. But it has put them increasingly on the defensive.

At government level, since Mr Khatami won the presidency two years ago he has chipped at the power bases of Iran's hardline supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with growing success. He has had few weapons but the moral authority born of his huge popularity, but he has used that in the causes of tolerance, free speech and greater accountability. Earlier this year, he forced the hitherto untouchable intelligence ministry to concede its responsibility for the mysterious murders of prominent intellectuals; and on Saturday, secular Iranian writers who have been shunned or persecuted for two decades were publicly honoured. The elections added to his successes, returning to politics Abdollah Nouri, a liberal former Interior Minister forced from office by the die-hards. The 70 per cent of popular support that Mr Khatami commands suggests that the conservatives' grip on their strongholds in parliament, the judiciary, the police and

parts of the army could also be shaken in legislative elections next year.

Iran today is Islamic, but almost "post-Islamist". It is a land in intellectual ferment. Iranians are hooked up to the Internet. They go to pop festivals. Women passionately defend their right to play sports. More than half are much too young to recall the 1979 revolution. They want jobs and enough money to marry; they chafe at petty religious persecution and detest the corruption that, along with a US-led trade boycott, has crippled a country with the world's second largest reserves of natural gas and fourth largest of oil. Mr Khatami has won them over with his advocacy of a more tolerant society, respect for law and, not least, economic recovery aided by new Western ties.

The West, as Washington constantly reminds Europeans, still has solid reasons to be wary of the Iranian regime, including its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and support for international terrorism. But it is too simplistic to see Mr Khatami's foreign overtures as no more than an attempt to drive a wedge between the US and its more accommodating EU allies. The danger of backsliding is ever present. But he has distanced Iran from terrorism, accepted the right of Palestinians to make peace with Israel, and dissociated his Government from the fatwa against Salman Rushdie. The West should do all it can to encourage further change.

If Mr Khatami continues to modernise, and if he can keep the promises he has made, there is a case for easing the US trade embargo. Imposed two decades ago, it may be too blunt an instrument for the subtler realities of today. Sanctions comfort the powerful handful of Iranians who still label America "the Great Satan"; and if the President is to outflank them, he urgently needs to revive the economy. That will require foreign investment as well as the domestic reforms which Mr Khatami is trying to implement. As Margaret Thatcher famously said of Mikhail Gorbachev, he could be a man to do business with.

ON THE ROPES

A dubious result worsens boxing's dire reputation

The heavyweight division has long symbolised the decline of professional boxing as a sport. Two decades ago, it was dominated by athletes whose personalities matched their biceps. The 1970s saw Muhammad Ali's improbable and memorable triumph over George Foreman and, 12 months later, his astonishing victory over Joe Frazier in the Philippines. Since then the number of "official" world boxing organisations has multiplied. The division has more titles than a Ruritanian aristocrat; and more does not mean better. In the absence of any other boxing giant, the sport has become dangerously dependent on Mike Tyson — the triumph of psychopathy over personality.

With Tyson once again a reluctant guest of the American penal system, it was up to Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis to restore heavyweight boxing's long-lost glory. Their encounter at Madison Square Garden New York City was promoted as the last significant fight of the 20th century. In the event, this putative rise to the "rumble in the jungle" and the "thriller in the Square". Despite a clearly commanding performance by Lewis that left Holyfield desperate for the final bell, the three judges

somehow produced a draw. Obviously there will now be a lucrative rematch.

This has done nothing to redeem the tattered reputation of boxing. Lest this be considered partisan sour grapes, the comments of almost the entire American press can be entered as supporting evidence. The words of the *New York Post* sum up US sentiment. Lewis, it said, had beaten Holyfield "from here to London — with stop-offs in Jamaica and Canada along the way — and back again". The basic statistics of the contest, in terms of punches thrown and landed, would appear to confirm that analysis.

This distinctly dubious result was a miserable conclusion to a fight which itself was scarcely worthy of the attention. It should have produced an undisputed heavyweight champion of the world but even if it had, the pre-eminence of Ali, Foreman and Frazier would not have been denied. The various bodies responsible for boxing should ensure a swift rematch and natural justice suggests that it should be held in London. Boxing has become a controversial activity, a huge and highly commercialised audience-puller but no longer the sport it once was. It cannot afford more embarrassment.

Budget rise in fuel costs condemned

From Mr David Green, Director General of the Freight Transport Association, and others

Sir, Among the many omissions in the Chancellor's Budget speech was a reference to the massive increase imposed on diesel fuel. Prices in this country are already twice as high as the highest in Europe, and while the theory behind the fuel duty escalator — by which duty rises by a set percentage each year — may be impeccable, there is no evidence that it has actually delivered any environmental benefits.

Add to this a vehicle excise duty which is 11 times higher here than in France and it is not surprising that hundreds of transport operators are actively seeking to register their vehicles abroad.

There is evidence that the huge differences in transport taxation levels between the UK and the rest of Europe will generate more job losses than would result if the Longbridge car plant, Birmingham, were to close. Statistics compiled by the Centre for Economic and Business Research, published on February 12, show that a total of 53,000 jobs will disappear from the transport and related support industries by 2002 unless current transport taxation policies are changed.

We have a vital interest in the competitiveness of British industry. Distribution is a significant element of manufactured costs and the Chancellor should recognise that Tuesday's Budget has not only failed to improve our ability to compete but has actually made matters worse.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. GREEN,
PETER AGAR
(Confederation of British Industry),
IAIN HANFORD
(Federation of Small Businesses),
DAVID HIGGINBOTTOM
(United Road Transport Union),
CHRIS HUMPHRIES
(British Chambers of Commerce),
RICHARD MACDONALD
(National Farmers' Union),
STEVEN NORRIS
(Road Haulage Association),
Freight Transport Association,
Hermes House,
St John's Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9UZ.
March 12.

From Mr Bernard Jenkin, MP for Essex North (Conservative)

Sir, The Budget kept vehicle excise duty (VED) on trucks at nearly seven times the level of many other EU countries. Large trucks registered and operated in the UK are now completely uncompetitive with their EU counterparts. Registering 50 trucks abroad would save the operator some £600,000 per year in VED and fuel taxes.

The Road Haulage Association has set up a service that took 700 inquiries on the first day from truckers asking about registering on the Continent. The same number of trucks will be run. They will simply burn foreign fuel and pay foreign taxes. Smaller companies that cannot re-register will fail.

Speaking after the Budget, Transport Minister Glenda Jackson said: "Many foreign hauliers... are now moving to the UK and using it as a base for their operations" (*House of Commons Official Report: European Standing Committee A*, March 10, col 8). "We perceive haulage firms from mainland Europe moving their operations into this country" (*ibid*, col 9). She can only mean that they are coming here with foreign-registered trucks and cheap foreign fuel to mop up the UK competition.

When the Conservatives discovered that high whisky duty was damaging that industry, we announced a review that led to cuts in whisky duties in our last two Budgets.

No other EU country has a fuel escalator. The Government's present policy must be reversed.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD JENKIN
(Shadow Minister of Transport),
House of Commons.
March 12.

Uganda and Sudan

From the Chargé d'Affaires of Sudan

Sir, Your editorial about the barbaric murders of eight Western tourists in Uganda, "Death in Uganda: a successful African state with very dangerous borders" (March 3), refers to Sudan as a supporter of some of the rebel movements opposing the Uganda regime.

The Ugandan Government under Museveni has attempted to destabilise every one of its neighbours with the exception of Tanzania. Sudan does not harbour or support any of the Ugandans that have chosen to militarily oppose the regime in their country. If Uganda is as dangerous as borders, they would appear to be largely of its own making.

Yours faithfully,
A. AI KORONKY,
Sudan Embassy,
3 Cleveland Row,
St James's, SW1A 1DD.
March 5.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fight to end female circumcision

From Colonel Patrick Montgomery

Sir, Having worked with people concerned about female genital mutilation (FGM) for the past 35 years, I was glad to read your admirable leading article "Tradition and torture" (March 6) and in particular the importance you attach to education.

A Sudanese gynaecologist who had, ever since he qualified, fought to eradicate FGM at risk to his career, because of what it had done to his sister, told me in 1978 that FGM had not the approval of any medical or religious authority, though none had yet condemned it. Neither the World Health Organisation nor Unicef had yet dared openly to oppose it. At that time it was left to a single non-governmental organisation (NGO). Wisely, in 1979 that NGO delegated the task (together with the means and the knowhow) to a group of African women. That group is now running educational pilot projects in 25 African countries, with their governments' approval.

Educational work must be based on an understanding of why the practice continues to exercise so strong a hold. Willing acceptance on the part of women constitutes a formidable barrier to change. Where society demands that a man shall marry a girl only if she has been "done", it will take great determination to refuse. No man will marry an uncircumcised girl and society will have no place for her unmarried.

Women's writing

From Mrs Gillian Petrie Hunter

Sir, It's all very well for established women writers and publishers to sneer at *Misled* (report, "New magazine for women not the write stuff", March 8). However, Debbie Taylor, its editor, is surely right about the paper ceiling which prevents many women, who may be talented but not sufficiently persistent, from getting into print.

In your report, magazine publisher Sally O'Sullivan said: "Successful writers aren't that helpful when it comes to giving advice... I would go further and say that there is a general discouragement by British agents and publishers of new writing, whether by women or men."

Years ago, when I worked in publishing, I had to rescue the incoming manuscripts from the sole arbitration of the office junior — heaven knows how many Iris Murdoch and Doris Lessing we had turned down! Judging by some of the baffling rejection letters I see today as

For this reason, educational efforts need to focus on the attitudes of men. Once the taboo is broken it should surely not be too difficult to persuade young men that depriving a woman of her clitoris is depriving her of her ability to respond sexually.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MONTGOMERY,
The Oast House,
Framfield Road,
Buxted, East Sussex TN22 4PP.
March 7.

From Mr Leslie James

Sir, I was enormously impressed and gratified to read Sue Fox's interview with Waris Dirie (*Magazine*, March 6). I served as a Commandant of Police in the Sudan while it was an Anglo-Egyptian Condominium and well remember the passing of an ordinance to outlaw female circumcision. But, even then, a criminal prosecution could not be instituted without the consent of the Advocate-General, and I cannot recall any charge being preferred during my term of office.

Waris Dirie deserves our unreserved praise for her courageous stand.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE JAMES,
47 Broadway Road,
Longthorpe, Peterborough PE3 9PY.
March 8.

writer and editor, I am fairly sure matters have not improved. Whether or not it is happily named, I wish *Misled* well.

Yours faithfully,
G. V. J. PETRIE HUNTER,
Hunston, Donhead St Andrew,
Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9EB.

From Ms Michèle Roberts

Sir, I did indeed say to your reporter that I disliked the title of the magazine *Misled*, but I also explained at some length that I believed the magazine may have an educational role to play in supporting women's writing and that I do believe subtle discrimination against women in the literary world and the media world persists.

This would seem to be borne out by your report, which gives only hostile reactions to *Misled* and omits any favourable ones.

Yours faithfully,
MICHELE ROBERTS,
109 Queens Quay,
58 Upper Thames Street, EC4V 3EJ.
March 11.

Laptops for teachers

From the Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, On your front page on March 6 you speculated that every teacher would have a free laptop computer as a result of the Budget (see also letters, March 11). In fact, while there is a substantial input of new money planned for computers, it was not correct to say that it would mean a free laptop for every teacher. The £470 million UK-wide programme will mean a network of learning centres for both adults and young people to improve access to information technology and to raise computer literacy standards.

We have provided £20 million to offer low-cost loans to enable teachers to buy computers and a further £15 million to offer less well-off homes the chance to lease recycled and refurbished computers at low cost. Both initiatives will help to raise standards and ensure we bridge the gap between the computer "haves and have nots".

This money is in addition to the extra £1.1 billion for schools (which should reach schools if their local authority uses money for education for that purpose) and in addition to extra money from the Standards

Fund for the three Rs and other measures to improve achievement.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
Department for Education and Employment,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BT.
March 11.

From Dr Phillip Hallam-Baker

Sir, Michael Barratt (letter, March 11) asks what teachers can do with the laptop computers and modems which are to be provided by the Government.

If they used them to exchange ideas on teaching and lesson plans they could both save themselves time and teach each other to become better teachers. Rather than the national curriculum being dictated by Whitehall committees, it could be developed by teachers who still teach their subject with the benefit of advice from the best researchers in the country.

We built the Web as a collaboration tool.

Yours etc,
PHILLIP HALLAM-BAKER,
73 Merriam Street,
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.
March 11.

Dressed for success?

From Mr George Webb

Sir, As the TV camera panned along the serried ranks of backbench MPs at Wednesday's PMQs, for the first time ever I could not be sure if I was watching Tony Blair or other MPs. The Government benches now display uniformly immaculately suited and groomed Labour MPs: a far cry from the homely curdlovers and red oes of a bygone era (apart from Dennis Skinner, that is). They are indeed a credit to us all.

Sincerely,
GEORGE WEBB,
11 Long Hill Rise,
Hucknall, Nottingham NG15 6GL.
March 10.

Winning chess

From Mr Steve Astbury

Sir, The most astonishing point about the German chess computer cheat (report, March 12) is that the computer could checkmate a grandmaster in eight moves. I thought that this only ever happened to me.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE ASTBURY,
13 Old Road,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire S44 5HS.
deltaarofingd@btinternet.com
March 12.

The headless man

From Mr Richard Lamb

Sir, Like Michael Thornton (report, March 8), I have seen the Denning private archive about the late Duchess of Argyll. Lord Denning offered me access to it when I was researching into the Profumo affair for my book *The Macmillan Years* (John Murray, 1995).

These papers make it possible to identify the headless man in the Argyll case, but Denning made me promise not to reveal his name as the man was still alive. I cannot believe that Michael Thornton was not obliged to give a similar promise.

The most intriguing part of the file was Denning's discovery that a senior Cabinet minister had been engaged in disgusting practices with prostitutes and a junior minister had homosexual affairs. Both could have been blackmailed and were thus security risks.

Denning told the Prime Minister (and Macmillan noted it twice in his diary) but omitted it from his report. In my book I wrote that Macmillan feared the Government might be brought down if Denning included it.

Yours truly,
RICHARD LAMB,
Knightsbridge, Broadchalke,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 5EB.
March 8.

Dismay at loss of legal aid clause

From the Head of Legal Affairs of the Consumers' Association and others

Sir, We are dismayed that the Lord Chancellor's Department has dismissed as a "gimmick" an important new clause in the Access to Justice Bill, which has its third reading in the House of Lords on Tuesday (Law Diary, February 23).

The clause was passed in the Lords last month by a majority of 71. It sets the Government the objective of ensuring that legal aid is available to those without means: of protecting individuals against discrimination on the basis of disability or where they live; and ensuring that the legally aided party is placed on an equal footing relative to the other side. Having promised to set its own objectives, the Government has tabled proposals which are plainly inadequate.

The Lord Chancellor is planning to have these safeguards struck out in the Commons, despite the fact that the equal treatment of people before the law has been central to the thinking behind our system of legal aid since its inception some fifty years ago.

The requirement that legal aid should be subject to available resources does not remove the need to set objectives for spending those resources. If the Lord Chancellor believes that such a clause is "quite unrealistic", then we must conclude that from now on those on legal aid can be expected to receive a second-class service.

Legislators put "objective" clauses in Bills for good reasons: to ensure that the executive is bound to deliver in practice what it regularly promises in its political rhetoric.

A law without clear objectives may meet the government interest. Only a law with objectives meets the public interest.

Yours sincerely,
ASHLEY HOLMES,
Head of Legal Affairs,
Consumers' Association,
DAN BRENNAN,
Chairman, General Council of the Bar,
VICKI CHAPMAN,
Policy Director, Legal Action Group,
MICHAEL MATTHEWS,
President, The Law Society,
Consumers' Association,
2 Marylebone Road, NW1 4DF.
March 12.

Prayer and shopping

From the Suffragan Bishop of Maidstone

Sir, It was refreshing to read a fair piece of reporting on the Churches' plans for the millennium (report, "Shopping is next to godliness, says new liturgy", March 9). Only one thing spoils your report. You referred to "the millennium prayer or 'resolution'". There is no such prayer.

The Churches do not believe the millennium resolution is a prayer, and have never presented it as such. It is meant to be a new year resolution, setting out some of the biblical values that society needs if it is to make a new start in the new century.

The reason this is put in the form of a resolution rather than a prayer is important and must not be missed. In a prayer you put the responsibility on to God to achieve the end. In a resolution you put the burden on yourself, and in the matter of making a better society that's where the responsibility should lie.

Yours sincerely,
T. GAVIN MAIDSTONE
(Chairman, Archbishops' Millennium Advisory Group),
Bishop's House, Pent Lane,
Charing, Kent TN27 0DL.
March 9.

From Mr George Medd

Sir, Worshipping the God of shopping should always be followed by home confession, using the traditional words: "... We have bought those things which we ought not to have bought. And there is no wealth in us."

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MEDD,
Littlebourne Cottage,
Twiford, Hampshire SO21 1PZ.
March 9.

From Mr N. A. S. Andrews

Sir, In the Lenten addresses I have been giving, entitled *From Paganism to Christianity*, I asked in our first session if awe of God had not been replaced by awe for the goods of Marks & Spencer.

We now know the answer to my question. Yours faithfully,
N. A. S. ANDREWS,
Ashwood Farmhouse,
Mill Lane, Preston near Wingham,
Canterbury, Kent CT3 1HG.
March 9.

Budget miracle

From Mr Gerald Solomon

Sir, You report today that "solicitors were rushing" (my italics) to beat a deadline created by increased stamp duty on the sale of high-priced properties.

Who said that Chancellors can't work miracles?

Yours faithfully,
GERALD SOLOMON,
Sylvan, Pwllglas,
Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 2PD.
March 11.

OBITUARIES

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM JACKSON

General Sir William Jackson, GBE, KCB, OBE, MC and Bar, soldier, military historian and former Governor of Gibraltar, died on March 12 aged 81. He was born on August 28, 1917.

In a career that lasted until well past the normal retiring age, Bill Jackson was variously a fighting soldier, military historian, Quartermaster-General of the Army and, at a time when most men are happy enough for a sinecure, a wise Governor of Gibraltar during a testing period, 1978-82. His tenure included the months of the Falklands conflict, when the usual tensions between Britain and Spain over the Rock were considerably increased by the outbreak of hostilities over another territory whose inhabitants were determined to remain British. Jackson keenly enjoyed the complexity of such a situation, and was acutely aware of the ambivalences of the cat-and-mouse game which the British had to play with their Spanish Nato allies.

As a fighting Sapper in the Second World War Jackson had seldom been far from the action, as attested by his two MCs, awarded in the Norwegian and Italian campaigns. He had also served in North Africa, and during the latter part of the war he went out to the Far East. In 1958 he was to return to Malaya, where he was deeply involved in anti-terrorist operations. He had by that time become established as a staff officer of the highest class, and his intellect was later to make him a fine chronicler of military campaigns, in many of which he had fought personally.

William Godfrey Fothergill Jackson was the son of a colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was educated at Shrewsbury School, from where he went to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. There he won the King's Medal as the outstanding scholar of the year, and later he went to King's College, Cambridge. He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1937.

After the outbreak of war he took part in the British Army's first major campaign in Norway in the spring of 1940. He was



General Sir William Jackson in the 1970s, before he became Governor of Gibraltar

part of a force which landed at Andalusia as the southern prong of an attack on German-occupied Trondheim. But Winston Churchill, who was then First Lord of the Admiralty, soon perceived that both this and a northern force launched from Namsos were in imminent peril from counter-attacks, and evacuation was ordered.

Jackson commanded the Sapper contingent in the withdrawal to Andalusia, which was charged with blowing up railway lines and bridges in the path of the advancing Germans. For his gallantry and astute conduct of his unit in this operation — during which he was wounded — Jackson was awarded an immediate MC.

He then served in Tunisia under Eisenhower and Alexander. During the Italian campaign he was back in command of a unit, and it was as a major, leading an Engineer Field Squadron, that he gained the Bar to his MC — and was wounded twice more.

In the winter of 1943 it was his squadron that bridged the

Volturno River to the north of Naples, and enabled the allies to advance to the Gustav Line.

Jackson remained in Italy until the breakthrough to the Gothic Line north of Florence in the summer of 1944, but in 1945 he was sent out to the Far East. There he took part in the reoccupation of Singapore and in the delicate operations in Indonesia and Malaya, in which the Japanese, not having been defeated on the battlefield there, made themselves difficult prisoners. The nascent nationalist movements were not at all keen on seeing their old colonial masters back.

On his return to Britain, Jackson joined the directing staff at the Staff College, and later was appointed an instructor at Sandhurst. He was promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1953 and commanded the Gurkha Engineers in Malaya from 1958 to 1960, the last years of the highly successful counter-insurgency campaign.

With a now excellent reputation as a staff officer, he returned to the Staff College as a colonel in

1961, but the next year he was promoted brigadier and made deputy director of staff duties at the War Office. He held this appointment until 1964, when he attended the Imperial Defence College. In 1966 he was promoted major-general and organised the Chief of the Defence Staff's annual exercise, meticulously thinking of everything, even down to the provision of golf clubs for those who had forgotten to bring their own.

In 1971, as a lieutenant-general, he was appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command. In 1973 he was promoted general on assuming the post of Quartermaster-General, his final appointment, which he held until 1976.

He was Colonel-Commandant, Royal Engineers, 1971-81; Gurkha Engineers, 1971-76; and Royal Army Ordnance Corps, 1973-78. He was appointed OBE in 1958, created KCB in 1971 and created GBE in 1975.

His appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar called on his knowledge and skill as both soldier and

historian. Jackson had a profound understanding of the history of the Rock, and continued to write to the press on behalf of its inhabitants long after his appointment was over.

When the Falklands war broke out in the spring of 1982 and his usually quiet harbour was suddenly packed with ships refuelling and resupplying on their way to the South Atlantic, he revelled in the quickening of tempo. He was particularly good at the business of trying to blind Spanish Intelligence — which was relaying all its findings to Argentina — about the nature and strength of the British reinforcement.

Bill Jackson had a formidable intellect and an extraordinary capacity for work. He drove himself just as hard as he drove his staff, yet always found time for his many other interests, such as fly-fishing. He was twice winner of the Trench Gascoigne Gold Medal of the Royal United Services Institute and was a frequent contributor to Service journals. He also wrote book reviews and many obituary notices for *The Times*. His style was terse, even dry, but always accurate.

His book *The Battle for Italy* (1957) became a standard work, and — like *The Battle for Rome* (1969) and *Alexander of Tunis as Military Commander* (1971) — owed much to his own observation. But he ranged widely across wartime operations and the postwar strategic scene. *The Alternative Third World War: 1985-2025* (1987) contained his liveliest speculations, ranging from the collapse of Nato, to a war between the US and its Latin American neighbours.

Despite an austere manner which made it difficult for him to appear relaxed, he was an excellent host and a warm friend. No one who had cause to consult him at any time during his service could complain that he came away without a sympathetic hearing and the best of advice. The outstanding student of his generation at Woolwich, Jackson went on to prove himself the outstanding Sapper of his time.

William Jackson married Joan Mary Buesden in 1946. She survives him, along with their son and daughter.

SIR EMMANUEL KAYE

Sir Emmanuel Kaye, CBE, industrialist, died on February 28 aged 84. He was born on November 29, 1914.

EMMANUEL KAYE did something very rare in postwar Britain: he founded a successful engineering firm. Lansing Bagnall went on to become the largest company of its kind in Europe. The historian of Britain's industrial decline, Correlli Barnett, called it "an absolutely outstanding achievement", the reverse of the usual dismal story.

Unlike many British inventors and innovators, Kaye knew how to bring his ideas to market in a realised physical form and in a financially viable shape. He had an incisive mind, and could strip away essentials to reach the core of a problem. He never stopped thinking of ways to improve his business, as executives who received his 7 am Sunday telephone calls will testify. He was a man quite without small talk and could seem so remote as to be frightening, yet he was kind and generous.

Emmanuel Kaye was educated at Richmond Hill School, which he left at 15 to support his widowed mother. Later he attended night classes at Twickenham Technical College to study engineering. He and his colleague John Sharp founded a business, J E Shay Ltd to supply metal components to larger companies. They went on to buy a bankrupt firm and turn it into Lansing Bagnall, making electric forklift trucks. In February 1946 they purchased a new site, in Basingstoke, and were later to become the town's largest employer. Kaye married Elizabeth Cutler the following August.

It was a black time for business, which faced both shortages of material and pettifogging regulations under the post-war Labour administration. The shortage of steel led the Ministry of Supply to

cancel their building licence and the partners spent Christmas Day 1947 writing a new application.

By product and business innovation, Lansing Bagnall became the largest manufacturer of forklift trucks in Europe. John Sharp died in 1965, but Kaye carried on expanding the business until there were nine overseas companies, 40 worldwide distributors and a peak total of 1,000 employees. In 1989 he sold out to the German firm of Linde.

Though 75, he did not retire. In 1977 he had initiated a scheme to set up young entrepreneurs in business, and Kaye Enterprises, founded in 1989, went on to back fledglings in areas as diverse as steel stockholding, wholesale stationery, retirement homes and computer software. He was a passionate opponent of Britain joining the single currency and a founder member of Business for Sterling in 1998. He served on many CBI committees from 1974 to 1992.

His devotion to public service was also apparent in his work on many other committees, such as the Council of Industry for Management Education (1970-87) and the Reviewing Committee on Export of Works of Art (1977-80).

He made many charitable bequests in this country and in Israel, most of them anonymous. He funded a room in the National Portrait Gallery (which contains a fine portrait of him by Paul Brassey), and was a trustee of Glynde House from 1977 to 1984. Perhaps surprisingly, he was a devotee of alternative medicine, being vice-president of the Natural Medicines Society and patron of the British Homeopathic Association. He also founded the Thrombosis Research Institute in 1981.

He was appointed CBE in 1967 and received his knighthood in 1974. He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

WILLIAM MATHIESON

William Mathieson, CB, CMG, MBE (MIL), former Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Overseas Development, died on February 12 aged 82. He was born on February 22, 1916.

WILLIAM MATHIESON devoted most of his working life to African affairs at the Colonial Office and then to the organisation of aid programmes. After retiring from the Civil Service in 1975, he spent 15 vigorous years as a consultant promoting development overseas.

The son of a Church of Scotland minister, William Allan Cunningham Mathieson was born in Scone, Perthshire. He won scholarships to Dundee High School and Edinburgh University, where he took a first in classics. After being awarded the senior King's Scholarship at King's College, Cambridge, in 1938, he joined the Colonial Office.

As a major in the Royal Artillery he was responsible for planning the firing of the Rhine-crossing campaign and took part in the liberation of Belgium. He was appointed MBE (MIL) in 1945.

Back at the Colonial Office, he was appointed a counsellor to the British Mission at the UN from 1951 to 1954. He then took up duties as head of the East African department, where he attracted the attention of several governors: Sir Evelyn Baring, then Governor of Kenya, secured his secondment to Nairobi in 1958 as Minister of Education, Labour and Lands to structure and supervise the imminent transition to independence.

He was appointed CMG in 1955 and CB in 1970. He was an honorary fellow of Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His last years were given to extensive travel, voluminous reading and research into early plant-hunters in the Americas and Asia. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1946, and by their two sons.

ALAN HARDY

Alan Hardy, horticulturist and plantsman, died on February 4 aged 72. He was born on April 4, 1926.

ALAN HARDY had a lifelong interest in garden plants, which probably began at the age of seven when a well-known daffodil grower gave him some bulbs. In later life he was particularly respected for his knowledge of many groups of hardy garden plants, ranging from daffodils and snowdrops through chrysanthemums to rhododendrons.

His garden, Sandling Park, at Hythe, Kent, which he took over from his father along with the family farm, contained a major collection of outstanding plants. It was wrecked by the great storms of 1987 and 1990. Each time he tackled the devastation with great energy, bringing the gardens back to the exemplary standard for which they were renowned.

Sandling Park was developed by four generations of the Hardy family. Laurence Hardy started it in 1897. He saw the potential for a woodland garden, and planted the first rhododendron there in 1900: the well-known Hardy hybrid "Cynthia". Today the garden is noted for its woodland plants, many of which originated in seeds from plants in the

wild. The garden has a large collection of rhododendrons, some bred by Hardy's father, Arthur. Hardy also hybridised rhododendrons and one of the results, named "Arthur Hardy", deservedly gained an award of merit when exhibited at Chelsea in 1986. Hardy took great delight in exhibiting at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower shows in Westminster, and was awarded the Loder Rhododendron Cup in 1978. Many other important prizes followed.

He devoted a great deal of time and energy to the society's floral committees, and was much involved in judging exhibits, as well as plants in the trials at the society's garden at Wisley in Surrey. The contribution he made to the society's publication *Award of Garden Merit Plants*, which lists all the plants that have been given this award for outstanding garden value, demonstrated his extensive knowledge and judgment.

In 1993 the RHS awarded Hardy its highest accolade, the Victoria Medal of Honour, for his contribution to horticulture, and so he joined a small group of husbands and wives who both hold that award, as his wife Carolyn had received the medal in 1989. She survives him, along with their two daughters.

JAKI BYARD

Jaki Byard, jazz pianist, was shot dead in New York on February 11 aged 76. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on June 15, 1922.

THE consummate ease with which Jaki Byard was able to bring to life virtually all styles of jazz piano, from ragtime to the avant garde, won him countless admirers during more than half a century as one of the most distinguished pianists in jazz. He became best known for his work in the 1960s with Charles Mingus, joining the iconoclastic bassist in a series of bands that included such jazz revolutionaries as Roland Kirk, Eric Dolphy and Booker Ervin.

His stylistic breadth and openness to new thinking made him an ideal participant in Mingus's experiments, and it is largely due to Byard that much of the Mingus canon survives, since the bassist taught his musicians their parts by singing them. Byard wrote down what they had played before it was forgotten, claiming it was for his own reference, but surreptitiously distributing parts to colleagues.

Despite a mischievous sense of humour, and the acute ear of a born pianist, Byard was no superficial musician, and the integrity of his exploration of the jazz keyboard tradition was over the most hard-bitten of critics, his fellow musicians. Enthusiasts for his playing included pianists as varied as Teddy Wilson and the avant garde composer Paul Bley, and he was the automatic choice to deputise for Duke Ellington during Ellington's final illness.

Hearing one of Byard's solo recitals, Bley wrote: "He can play

the piano the way people have for the last forty years, and he gets very close to how it was actually done". And it was Byard's command of the subtlest nuances of the keyboard that made him a hugely influential teacher, first at the New England Conservatory, which he joined in 1969, and then at a range of other colleges, including the Brooklyn Conservatory and the Hartford School of Music. He taught at the Manhattan School of Music until his death.

John A. Byard Jr began his own musical education in a household full of instruments. His father played in a brass band, and his grandmother had been a pianist for silent movies, so he began piano lessons himself at an early age. He studied with a teacher called Grace Johnson Brown, who gave him a good grounding in the classics, before the Depression put an end to his lessons in 1932.

Nevertheless, his father encouraged Byard to play trumpet (and later trombone and tenor sax) in his marching band, and also to listen to jazz on the radio. This fuelled an interest that grew when Byard became old enough to hear the great swing orchestras of Chick Webb, Fletcher Henderson and Jimmie Lunceford as they visited his local theatre. From the age of 16 he began to play at an after-hours club with several members of these bands, nicknaming the venue the Saxtrum club: sax-trumpet-drum.

On medical advice, Byard stopped playing trumpet and focused on piano, but when he was conscripted into the Army in 1941 he ended up specialising on trombone alongside the pioneer modern jazz drummer Kenny



Byard was a master of every kind of jazz on the piano

Clarke. After demobilisation, he returned to Boston to study, playing for short spells with the violinist Ray Perry and the saxophonist Earl Bostic, before ending up as a regular pianist for the trumpeter Herb Pomeroy.

Boston in the late 1940s was a hotbed of jazz experimentation, and there Byard played with the cutting-edge saxophonists Sam Rivers and Charlie Mariano before temporarily concentrating on saxophone himself with

Pomeroy's Jazz Workshop Orchestra. Back on piano, he moved to New York and ended up in 1960 working with the experimental trumpeter Don Ellis, who encouraged him to play for Charles Mingus at the Showplace Club.

He did not join Mingus, with whom he replaced Horace Parlan, until 1962, but he proved the ideal pianist to accommodate the unorthodox playing of Mingus's saxophonist and clarinetist Eric

Dolphy, for whom Byard revoiced the standard chords of his accompaniments, pioneering a modern jazz technique that is still in use.

Just before joining Mingus, Byard made a set of discs for the Prestige label that remain among the best examples of his playing, in particular the album *Out Front!*, on which Booker Ervin is an outstanding soloist. Byard had the good fortune to be in Mingus's band during one of its most creative and comprehensively recorded periods, which assured his reputation and drew him into further recording and solo projects, but particularly into teaching. For much of the 1970s, he kept a low profile, though with regular appearances at New York clubs. Then he formed the first of a series of big bands, the Apollo Stompers, which he continued to lead on and off for some years.

Most recently, in addition to his 1991 disc in a series of piano recitals recorded at the Maybeck Hall in Berkeley — one of the most audaciously avant garde of a predominantly mainstream collection — he formed a duo with the saxophonist Michael Marcus. Using reed instruments such as the stritch and mazzello, and with a cavalier attitude to pitch, Marcus continued the line of experimentation of Byard's former colleagues Roland Kirk and Eric Dolphy, and he proved the ideal foil for Byard's blend of tradition-based technique and exploratory imagination. Their album *This Happening* was widely acclaimed, and a new album is due for release.

Byard was found shot in the head by a single bullet at his home in Queens. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

Latest wills

The 7th Baron Newborough, of Rug, Cornwall, Devonshire, left estate valued at £20,527,941 net.

Brigadier Roderick Heathcoat Amory, of Allington, Chippingham, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,063,754 net.

Lady Porritt, of London SW13, left estate valued at £449,056 net.

Helen, Baroness Raborough, of Raborough, Devon, left estate valued at £916,494 net.

Margaret Winifred Hole, of East Grinstead, West Sussex, left estate valued at £9,052,890 net.

She left £50,000 to St Catherine's Hospice, Crayke; £10,000 to restoration fund, St Swinburn's Church, East Grinstead.

William Andrews, of Llandudno, Rhyl, Denbighshire, left estate valued at £3,452,937 net.

Phyllis Gwendoline Symonds, of Ipswich, left estate valued at £2,014,423 net.

Howard Craggs, solicitor, of Brighton, left estate valued at £2,042,903 net.

He left shares in the remainder of his estate to RNLI, Salvation Army and Cancer Relief Association.

She left £10,000 to the National Fund, Jean Asch, of Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,041,177 net.

Reginald Joseph Currey, of Brighton, East Sussex, left estate valued at £645,804 net.

Martin Charles De Roemer, of Tilford, Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,398,568 net.

Joyce Lillian Fisher, of Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,497,215 net.

She left £10,000 to the National Trust and to Bournemouth Blind Aid Society, plus shares in her residuary estate to Distressed Gentlefolk's

Aid Association, Guide Dogs for the Blind, British Heart Foundation, NSPCC, Spastics Society, British Red Cross, RNIB, Macmillan Cancer Trust and RNLI.

Gordon Eric Goodhew, of Ascot, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,807,060 net.

Andrews (commonly known as Andrew Goeritz, of London, W1, left estate valued at £1,424,437 net.

Lois Eunice Grigg, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,39,276 net.

Harold Hebblethwaite, of Dore, Sheffield, left estate valued at £1,630,378 net.

He left £5,000 to Weston Park Hospital NHS Trust.

Maurice Lass, of London NW6, left estate valued at £1,428,531 net.

He left his residuary estate in trust for Jewish Care.

Henry Lewis, of Woodford Green, Essex, left estate valued at £1,050,410 net.

Wallace Newnham, of Claverdon, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £1,116,207 net.

Maire Pottinger, of Willenhall, West Midlands, left estate valued at £1,087,355 net.

Joyce Evelyn Peel, of Christchurch, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,181,926 net.

She left shares in her estate to RNLI, RSPCA, RNIB, Salvation Army, Barnardo's, Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Scope.

James Martin Puddle, of Twickenham, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,712,248 net.

Cecilia Mary Sudcliffe, of Great Broughton, Middlesbrough, left estate valued at £1,478,998 net.

She left £5,000 to North Yorkshire branch, British Red Cross, and to South Tynes branch, NSPCC; £2,000 to Sue Ryder Foundation; and £1,000 to Gardeners' Benevolent Society and to DGAA HomeLife.

NEW YORK, March 14

The discovery of a new planet beyond Neptune was the result of 25 years' systematic search by the staff of the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Arizona, which began when Dr Percival Lowell, the founder of the Observatory, calculated that irregularities in the movements of Neptune indicated the presence of a body beyond that planet. A search of the skies by photograph was started then in accordance with Dr Lowell's calculations, and has continued to this day.

Early last year, according to the announcement made by the Observatory yesterday, the Lawrence Lowell telescope, a highly efficient special instrument for the search, was put in operation. Some weeks ago (January 21) an object was detected by telescopic photography on a plate, which has since been carefully followed. It has been observed photographically with the large Lowell reflector by Mr C. O. Lampland, and it has been observed visually with the large refractor by various members of the staff. All the observations indicate that the object is the one which Dr Lowell saw mathematically. Two years before his death Dr Lowell published his "Memoir on a Trans-Neptunian Planet", in which he called

THE NEW PLANET

round the Sun at not less than 300 years. The distance of Planet X from the Sun has been estimated at Flagstaff as 45 times the distance of the Earth from the Sun, or 4,185,000,000 miles. It will be at least a month before the actual size and mass of the planet can be roughly determined, and probably several months before an accurate measurement of its dimensions may be had.

Yesterday — when the announcement was made of the discovery of the planet which Dr Lowell had predicted would be found — was the birthday of the late astronomer.

The report from Lowell University of the discovery of a new planet was received with interest by astronomers in this country yesterday, and though confirmation cannot be obtained yet either from old photographs or by new observations at English observatories, there is a general tendency to accept the news as authentic, since it agrees with predictions already made and based on the disturbance of the planet Uranus, and in a lesser degree that of Neptune.

Observation is the more difficult because the planet is reported to be in a very thick part of the Milky Way. Sir Frank Dyson, the Astronomer Royal, said yesterday that its existence had been suspected for some time, having been deduced chiefly from the movements of Uranus.

ON THIS DAY

March 15, 1930

After the spectacular space triumphs of recent times, the discovery, more than 60 years ago, of a not-very-visible planet (Pluto) may seem pretty small beer, but it gave astronomers plenty to talk about at the time.

the body yet to be discovered "Planet X". Referring to one of his mathematical calculations, he wrote: "It indicates the existence of an unknown body with a mass between those of Neptune and of the Earth, with a visibility of 12-13 magnitude, according to the albedo, and a disk of more than one second in diameter."

The Harvard astronomers believe that because of its tremendous distance from the Sun it receives the light of the Sun with a brilliancy at most hardly exceeding that of moonlight, and they put the time it takes to go



Gamble in Milan
Oliver Holt on a twist in the Ronaldo saga
page 31



Keegan's choice
Matt Dickinson awaits the new England era
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Faldo faces failure
John Hopkins talks to a fallen champion
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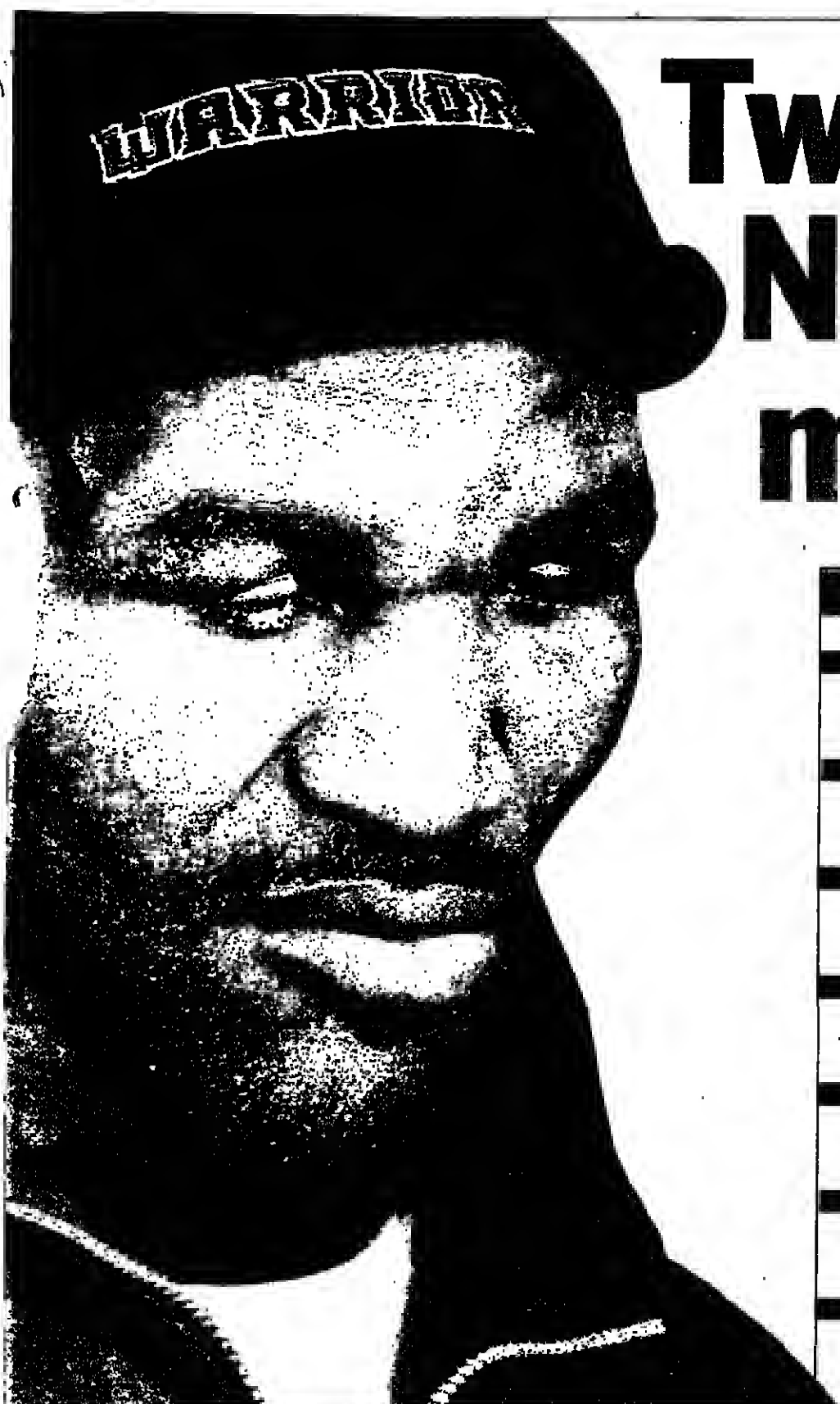


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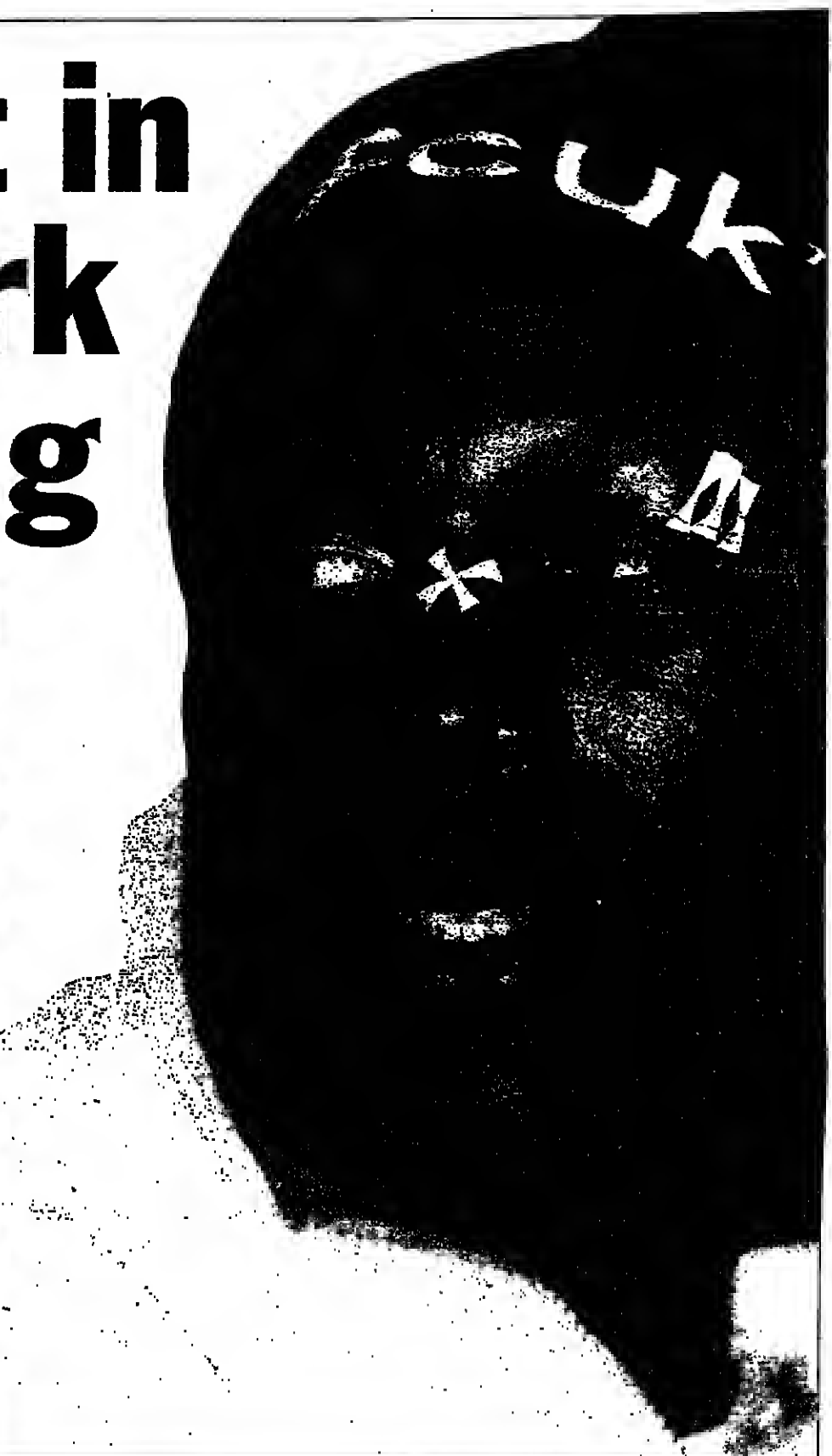
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MONDAY MARCH 15 1999



Two hurt in New York mugging

THE CRIME FIGURES	
HOLYFIELD	LEWIS
PUNCHES THROWN	
385	613
PUNCHES CONNECTED	
130	348
JABS THROWN	
171	364
JABS CONNECTED	
52	187
POWER PUNCHES THROWN	
214	249
POWER PUNCHES CONNECTED	
78	161
KNOCKDOWNS	
NIL	NIL



Lennox Lewis answered every question his severest critics have asked of him ever since his second-round defeat by Oliver McCall five years ago. He met Evander Holyfield for the undisputed world heavyweight title here at Madison Square Garden on Saturday and beat the IBF and WBA champion out of sight. But when the result was announced, Lewis, the WBC champion, was shocked to find he had been cheated of the unified title by the judges calling the contest a draw. It was mainly the work of one judge who was not watching the same fight not seen by 300 mil-

Lennox Lewis was robbed of the world heavyweight title by flawed judging. Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, examines an outrageous case of theft in New York

announced, Lewis was so surprised that he dropped his head on the shoulders of a cornerman and shook it over and over again in disbelief. But, after the decision, even those in the crowd who had made the contest a draw agreed that Lewis had gained a moral victory.

"I'm so disappointed," Lewis said. "It was my time to shine and they ripped me off." Then, with typical modesty, he handed the credit for his victory to his trainer Emanuel Steward. "He is a great trainer. He's a trainer of champions."

So disgruntled was the anchorman of the TVKO pay-per-view presentation by the result, that Jim Lampley was moved to say "Boxing's cesspool opened up to give an unconscionable odour". To the American public he said: "You have seen the fight. Lennox Lewis was the winner and two judges converted it to a draw. Lennox won it in every way imaginable. The draw means there is no undisputed champion but there should be."

If apology was needed for the unjustified ridicule and scorn that American boxing writers have poured on Lewis, it was given in a moving tribute by the country's top boxing commentator, Larry Merchant.

He said on television: "It is almost beyond a stretch. Lennox Lewis suffered so many slings and arrows in America. He has had a really wonderful career and despite being the best fighter in the heavyweight division he has been shamelessly avoided by everyone in this decade."

"He came here to fight the best of the best right now, decisively controlled the fight

throughout, beat Holyfield up and didn't get a decision. I'm ashamed as a boxing fan and as an American who has seen this foreigner take so much stuff from the other people simply because he is not American. His great moment of glory was taken away from him."

Don King, who is Holyfield's promoter, yesterday called for an immediate re-

match to resolve the dispute. While the idea seems a good one because it would prevent the world organisations from putting forward unworthy mandatory contenders, the bout is unlikely to happen.

Yesterday the three boxing bodies — the International Boxing Federation (IBF), the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the World Boxing

Council (WBC) — agreed that a rematch should take place as soon as possible, though this would not be before the autumn. However, it would be against their rules, which require Holyfield, 36, to have one contest before a rematch is sanctioned.

But Seth Abraham, the head of Time Warner Sport, is against the idea. He was happy for Lewis to hold his next defence in London in July if he won the undisputed title, but he says he will not entertain a Lewis-Holyfield rematch.

Abraham said: "Holyfield has to make a mandatory defence against Henry Akinwande. Let him do that first. No doubt Abraham realises that Lewis's demand for a rematch will be far greater than the £10 million that he received against Holyfield's £18 million for Saturday's fight, now that he is universally accepted as the people's champion. Meanwhile, Akinwande, another British boxer, was indicating yesterday that he might be willing to stand aside if circumstances were right.

The statistics of the Holyfield-Lewis contest will cause questions to be asked as to how Williams, the American judge who gave the contest to Holyfield on points, 115-113, and O'Connell, who scored the fight even at 115-115 came to their conclusions. Lewis threw a total of 613 punches and Holyfield 385. Lewis landed 348 of those. Holyfield only 130; 187 of Lewis's jabs connected while only 52 of Holyfield's got through. And of the power punches, Lewis came out on top by 161 to 78.

In no round did Holyfield

land more blows than Lewis and in five rounds Holyfield did not connect with more than nine punches, while Lewis's tally went into the twenties and thirties for all the rounds but the first.

It was lucky for Lewis that he did not lose the twelfth and final round because, in spite of winning the whole contest by a wide margin in the eyes of the crowd, Holyfield would have been declared the winner if Lewis had lost that round. That would have been unbearable for the British camp.

Dino Duva, Lewis's co-promoter, said he had been unhappy with the appointment of Williams and had tried to have her replaced. "She's very experienced," Duva said. "Very experienced in making bad decisions." Lewis's promoter, Rance Elikades, wanted to know how it was possible that the WBC had put forward O'Connell as a judge when only recently he had officiated at the contest between Oscar de la Hoya and Ike Quartey. "Surely there should be rotation of judges," he said. In fact, in that fight O'Connell was the one judge that gave Quartey the decision.

The victory for Lewis, and it was a victory no matter what the judges say, gave me greater pleasure than any boxing match I have seen, including the one in which Holyfield exposed Mike Tyson. This is not only because it has ended all the jokes about British heavyweights being of the horizontal variety but also brought to an end American domination of the division that has lasted a hundred years.

But most of all I am pleased for Lewis for it was a personal triumph over his American critics. Perhaps, like the way they had to change their tune about another man in another time, Muhammad Ali, when he became the people's champion after his defeat by Joe Frazier in 1971, the Americans will at last show Lewis some respect.

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Lewis claims victory, only to be denied by the judges

هكذا من الأهل

Keepers of the flame must renew allegiances



Samaranch: tolerates abuse

In its 100-year history, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has survived many crises, including wars, terrorist attacks, boycotts, drugs scandals, political interference and rampant commercialism. Yet, this week, in its home city of Lausanne, the IOC faces the most serious threat yet to its existence.

Just as King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table successfully fended off their external enemies, only to succumb to feuding among their own ranks, so the very fabric of the Olympic movement is now threatened by some of the IOC members themselves, the men and women charged with the task of preserving the ideals of the Games.

The world of sport is watching and waiting with concern and expectation. At least six members face expulsion at the 100th session on Wednesday and Thursday — a vote that requires a two-thirds majority of the 110 remaining IOC members. Four have resigned already over the same bribery allegations when Salt Lake City

The future of the Olympic movement is at stake this week. John Goodbody looks at the issues to be addressed if the Games are to survive scandal and corruption

secured the 2002 Winter Olympics. The outcry over the selection of sites for the Games was always a scandal waiting to happen.

In 1976, Monique Berlioux, the IOC's former executive director, wrote that, even in the 1920s, members were offered first-class travel for themselves and their wives. Increasingly, however, receptions, gifts and lavish dinners have been used by candidate cities to persuade members in the ballots.

What had not been revealed previously, although long suspected, was the frequency with which money or other favours were used by cities desperate to stage the world's biggest sports festivals. As the Games had become increasingly commercial, television companies and sponsors began to pay huge sums of money to be associated with the event. The television rights for the 1980 Winter Olymp-

ics in Lake Placid cost £10 million; for 2002 in Salt Lake City, the price is £300 million.

Leading competitors in the most popular sports, such as athletics and skiing, have also become hugely rich — the word amateur was deleted from the Olympic charter in 1973. It is no wonder that some IOC members have become tainted by the atmosphere of opulence.

In 1986, the IOC limited gifts to members to a maximum of £100, so the lobbying had to be done in secret, and this was complicated by the fact that guidelines on what was and what was not permissible had never been drawn up.

Certainly, members received lavish meals, first-class flights (some redeemed for cash), luxury hotels, offers of prostitutes and eventually bribes. Some members, such as the Princess Royal, who will miss the meeting this week because of a

visit to the Far East, have sent back presents — without thanks.

Others have not been so scrupulous. Some have argued that cities giving donations to the favourite sporting charities of members or development projects in their own countries should be allowed. They argue that these gifts are for the benefit of Olympic sports, often in Third World countries. However, now that Pandora's box has been prised open, even the number of peacocks consumed by members in hotel lobbies round the world is being scrutinised.

The IOC has to act decisively this week. Sponsors have warned that they want corruption eliminated before the build-up in marketing begins this summer for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. At a meeting this week, a reform commission, including out-

side members, will be proposed to change the rules and structure of the IOC. Among the suggestions is that future members should have a fixed term and usually represent national Olympic committees or international sports federations. At the moment, the IOC selects its members who represent the organisation in their own countries. They are not delegates from those countries to the IOC.

There will also be a new voting process for the selection of Games sites. A 15-member panel is expected to choose the two finalists for each summer and winter Games and the membership would then vote, although they would do so without necessarily having seen the facilities in those countries.

The IOC has two fears this week. The first is that there will be considerable short-term damage if any of the six — Lamine Keita

(Mali), Agustín Arroyo (Ecuador), Zein El Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir (Sudan), Sergio Santander Pantoja (Chile), Jean-Claude Ganga (Congo) and Saïbi Paul Wallwork (Samoa) — having been formally expelled from the IOC, reveals hitherto undisclosed details of further corruption by their former colleagues. The second is that the allegations over corruption in the bidding of other contending cities for Olympic Games will linger.

Juan Antonio Samaranch seems certain to be confirmed as president until he voluntarily resigns in 2001. The members, either officially or unofficially, will back him in a vote of confidence. He is not prepared to take responsibility for the crisis, even if he was aware, or should have been aware, of how much abuse of the Olympic ethos has occurred. On taking office, every IOC member has to swear to "keep myself free from any political and commercial influence". Under Samaranch's 19-year presidency, too many have not followed the letter or the spirit of their oath.

TENNIS

Williams learns about self-belief

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

ALL THINGS considered, it does not seem like much of a prize — Serena Williams wins the biggest title of her career, beating one of the greatest champions of the women's game, her second successive tournament victory taking her winning streak to 11 matches — and her father promises to take her to McDonald's.

Still, the 17-year-old seemed happy enough. On Saturday Williams defeated Steffi Graf 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 to win the Ever Cup, so pocketing a cheque for \$200,000 — more than enough to buy burgers for the whole family.

From being a promising and powerful hopeful, Williams has suddenly grown up. In the last few weeks she has proved that she has what it takes to be a champion. The physique and the athleticism were never in doubt — but now she has the belief and the application to fight, to dig herself out of trouble and, ultimately, to win. And it shows. "I think I realised one day in practice that I had to make

changes in my game if I wanted to get to the top level," she said. "It was about three weeks ago, before I won in Paris, when I realised that I can't keep going out there and losing to people I should beat if I want to be a top player."

That is as maybe but not many players go into a match against Graf thinking they really ought to win. For the first set on Saturday, Williams's sheer power was staggering. She hammered the Graf's service standing a yard inside the baseline and waiting to leather the ball into the corners.

Only in the second set did Williams let up. Her service went off the ball slightly and Graf took full advantage and another break at the start of the third set had her heading for the duke until Williams called for an injury time-out after three games because of a knee problem. Five games later Williams had levelled the scores and a few minutes later a couple of forehand errors cost Graf the match.



Jie Schopp, 31, who was born in China but now lives in Germany, is in determined mood as she powers to victory against the rising French star, Anne Boileau, 23, in the final of the English Open table tennis championships at Great Yarmouth yesterday. In the men's final, the former world No 2, Ma Wenge, of China, beat Kim Taek Soo, of South Korea

HOCKEY

Canterbury take a giant leap

BY CATHY HARRIS AND SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANTERBURY secured the first division title and a place in next season's women's National League premier division for the first time when they beat Bradford 2-1.

Nikki Litchfield scored the winning goal from a penalty corner two minutes after Jill Barker had equalised for Bradford. After losing to Loughborough Students in February, the Kent club put together a five-match unbeaten run which secured promotion. Denise Baker, the coach, said: "We've been close in the last four or five years and it just goes to show what a good finish and loads of self-belief can do."

Chelmsford, who were relegated three years ago, were also celebrating automatic promotion when goals by Julie Farrot, Jo Green, Tracy Willmore and Kath Fordham ensured a comfortable win at Aldridge. Woking, of the second division, stormed to the championship with an unbeaten record after a convincing victory over Sherwood.

Four goals by Mark Peart enabled Reading to defeat Old Loughtonians 7-3 in the men's National League premier division match at Chigwell yesterday, a result that underlined the potential of the winners, who were without Wyatt and Robinson, of New Zealand. The win pushes Reading up to third position above Canterbury.

Crutchley also hit the target four times as Cannock, the League leaders, hammered East Grinstead 13-3. Piddock, Johnson and Glover each added two goals while Gibson scored twice for East Grinstead.

Southgate kept up the chase with a 4-2 away victory over Canterbury, for whom Mathews converted two short corners. Rott scored twice for Southgate with further goals being added by Kerry and Williams from a short corner. Guildford's chances of finishing in the top four receded after a 6-2 defeat by Bourneville, for whom Grummitt scored four goals.

GOLF: SPANIARD COMES OUT ON TOP IN HIS OWN BACK YARD

Jimenez dances to the happy tune of victory

FROM MEL WEBB IN MALAGA

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ was wandering among the sands of the Costa del Sol yesterday and dug up a beautiful haul of buried treasure. Jimenez was a lost soul as he embarked on the inward half of his final round in the Turespina Masters, his once-hand-some lead disappearing fast. Only a moment of inspiration was going to save him; and he found not one, but two, before going on to win with a total of 264, 24 under par.

Jimenez led by five strokes going into the round at the Parador Malaga del Golf but had fallen from grace by shedding three shots to par in three holes from the seventh. A threat was being mounted by Steve Webster, the tough little Englishman, and Raphael Jacquelin, of France, and Jimenez suddenly looked vulnerable.

Things did not look a great deal better when he put his second shot into a greenside bunker on the tenth, but he retrieved the situation in the grandest manner by splashing out and watching as the ball trickled gently into the hole for a birdie.

He had a stroke of downright good fortune when a compatriot's foot stopped his ball from going into a pond on the

11th to allow him to save par when at least a double bogey loomed. He was not yet out of trouble, but at least his game and his mood had been put back into killer.

With five holes to play, he was only one stroke ahead of Webster and did not look likely to extend his advantage when he dumped his second shot into a greenside bunker on the par-five 14th. Surely he could not pull off the great escape again. He could, and did. This time, the ball came out of the sand at pace but, like a heat-seeking missile, it



Winning smile: Jimenez receives his son's goodwill

bounced, looked for the hole and found it. Eagle three ahead again; the tournament was his. A birdie on the 16th was, at once, satisfying and totally irrelevant as he finished with a 67. By now, Webster's push had lost its impetus, but a closing 66, that put him into second place four strokes behind Jimenez, was still a doughty effort. Neither he nor Jacquelin, who finished third, did not fail, but they had pitted themselves against a man on a mission, a Malagueño who was playing not just for himself, but for his people. Jimenez, thus, became the first man to defend successfully a title on the European Tour for two years and his score had been beaten only twice in the tour's history. The invitation to play in the US Masters that arrived on Friday evening was the £59,500 icing on the cake.

This was the fifth victory of Jimenez's career and, because it had been produced on his doorstep, the most precious. All that remained to complete the celebration was the dancing of an impromptu fandango in the media centre. You won't catch Colin Montgomerie hopping a post-victory reel any time soon.

Matthew edges into frame

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

CATRIONA MATTHEW, the Solheim Cup player from North Berwick, was handily placed to challenge for the title yesterday after a third round of 65, seven under par, in the Welch's/Circle K Championship at Randolph North here in Tucson.

"She just passed the world," one contender said. The round, which equalled her best of the week, catapulted the Scot into contention, just three shots behind the American veteran, Dale Eggeberg, who was out in front on 204, 12 under par. The irrepressible Dottie Pepper, the perennial scourge of Europe in the

Solheim Cup, was alongside Michele Redman, a fellow American, on 205, with Nancy Scranton and Hollis Stacy on 206.

Four years ago here, Matthew, in her rookie season on the US tour, was rushed to hospital and had to have emergency surgery to remove an ovarian cyst, so it would only be poetic justice if she were to win her first US title now.

Matthew has had a steady start this season after sharing fifth place in the HealthSouth Inaugural, the first event of

the year, in Florida, but is quietly confident after winning the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe at Gleneagles last August.

It was her maiden victory in Europe and secured her a place in the Solheim Cup team. It also gave her the invaluable boost that only winning brings. "I want to win a tournament this year," she said of her American ambitions. "And to finish in the top 30 on the money list."

Matthew's parents missed her round because they were sightseeing in Tombstone, but they are certain to be watching the final shoot-out.

IN BRIEF

■ **CYCLING:** Stephen Cummings's bid at the age of 17, to outpace many of Britain's leading sponsored seniors in the Mersey Roads three-stage 192km road race at the weekend was a sparkling success after the first two stages when he became the overall race leader (Peter Bryan writes). But his moment of truth came in the 134km stage through Flintshire yesterday, when he had to give up to his elders. He finished 14th overall, 2min 33sec behind Gareth Sheppard, the race winner.

■ **BOWLS:** Eileen Bell, who first played for Ireland 33 years ago, will compete in the final of the British women's indoor pairs championship in her home Belfast stadium today, after she skipped Kathleen McGrath to an exciting 22-20 extra-end victory over Paula Sumnerfield and Joanna Jones, the young Welsh champions, yesterday. Using their local knowledge, the Irish pair carried into a 10-4 lead after ten ends, but Sumnerfield and Jones fought back superbly, forcing the extra end when they tied the scores 20-20 after the full 21 ends.

■ **SKIING:** Lasse Kjus, of Norway, won the men's overall World Cup title after he threw caution aside in the final race of the season yesterday. The world champion had languished in 15th place in the first leg of the giant slalom, but a blistering second run lifted him to seventh and brought the points necessary to see off Kjetil Andre Aamodt, his main rival, Michael von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, won the race in a total time of 2min 43.3sec to reclaim the giant slalom title that he lost to Hermann Maier, of Austria, last season.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Sheffield Sharks moved up to within two points of Manchester Giants, the Budweiser League leaders, yesterday, with a hard-earned 63-60 victory over Milton Keynes Lions at Bletchley. The out-of-touch Sharks missed 12 of their 25 free throws and trailed for most of the game but they rallied in the final quarter to secure victory, helped by 23 points from Terrell Myers.

Injustice takes ringside seat

John Goodbody

The judgment of referee John Goodbody in the controversial decision to award the title to the American contender, Dale Eggeberg, over the Scottish champion, Catriona Matthew, was a masterpiece of injustice. The referee's decision was based on a technicality, a rule that states that a player must be in the hole at the end of the round. Matthew was not in the hole at the end of the round, while Eggeberg was. This was a technicality, a rule that was not intended to be used in this way. The referee's decision was a disgrace to the sport of golf. It was a decision that was based on a technicality, a rule that was not intended to be used in this way. The referee's decision was a disgrace to the sport of golf. It was a decision that was based on a technicality, a rule that was not intended to be used in this way.



Lewis paws Holyfield away with his left hand, with which he dictated the contest, with his right cocked to inflict further punishment on an opponent who rarely overcame disadvantages in weight and reach. Photograph: Kathy Willens

Lacklustre Holyfield saved by the judge

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

IT WAS supposed to be agony in the Garden for Lennox Lewis, but it turned out that it was Evander Holyfield, the man of God, who did not have a prayer. The American was supposed to demolish Lewis in the third round but from the first bell it was clear that Holyfield would be unlikely to fulfil his prophecy, although having been put off his stride in the first two rounds by well-placed jabs, Holyfield did then make a desperate attempt to justify his prediction.

From the bell, he rushed after Lewis and battered him around the ring. For just a moment it seemed that he would succeed in forcing a stoppage. But the bigger man, after swaying around in some disarray and covering up, was able to survive by retreating behind a jab that had no more than nuisance value.

Holyfield did not have a back-up plan. He had said he would not need one as the fight would certainly end in the third. Now, as his corner scratched around for alternatives, Holyfield could not come up with anything other than desperate lunges in an attempt to get past Lewis's extended left arm.

As rounds went by, Holyfield looked older, a forlorn shadow of the man who had a few weeks earlier in Houston, Texas, been so full of the joys

of boxing. In the end, he was completely exhausted and even as he went back to his corner, before slumping onto his stool, he knew he had been beaten and that the title was going back to Britain after 102 years.

But Eugenia Williams, the American judge, came to his aid by making him the winner by 115-113, which meant that with Larry O'Connell's draw, 115-115, and Stanley Christodoulou's win for Lewis by 116-113, the contest was a draw. The unified title would not, after all, be crossing the Atlantic.

At the post-fight press conference, Holyfield could hardly stand without leaning on the table. As he waited for questions, he swayed back

and forth, the muscles twitching in his bruised and battered face. A man kept calling, "get a doctor, get a doctor". In the event, Holyfield was able to field the questions without medical aid, but the public did not need the judges' score cards to tell them the winner.

It was good to see the New York Post, which had taunted Lewis mercilessly all week, screaming, "Robbery!" on the front page, and "D-draw deal!" on the back.

Before a sell-out crowd of 21,284, among them Michael Douglas and Jack Nicholson, Lewis began confidently, taking the fight to Holyfield and jabbing him round the ring. Holyfield was not difficult to hit and Lewis's gloves must have felt like a cricket ball in

his face. Cheered on by his delighted supporters, numbering around 7,000, the World Boxing Council champion took the second round with remarkable ease. After his failed attempt to finish Lewis off in the third, Holyfield appeared to look tired and ring-weary.

In the fifth round, his best, which Ms Williams gave to Holyfield, Lewis had a chance to knock out the double champion. As Holyfield trapped Lewis in a neutral corner and tried to bore in, Lewis neatly turned him and clouted him on top of the head with a big right.

It was a punch that Lewis had always hoped to land ever since seeing Holyfield disoriented by a blow to the temple. This punch landed a little higher than the temple but had the desired effect. Holyfield staggered backwards to the ropes, his head snapped in the top one. He was clearly in trouble, for he stood there just looking at Lewis.

After a couple of prods to see that his opponent was not feigning, Lewis unleashed a jab and two rights but still Holyfield did not reply. Then, after a couple more blows, he appeared to wake up and rushed at Lewis, landed two blows but was not able to follow them up.

From then on it became a procession of winning rounds for Lewis, with the jab, the chopping right and, when close in, a short right uppercut, piling up the points. Holyfield had his moments but was unable to take advantage of any of them. Lewis either held or moved out of range quickly. Throughout, Lewis boxed with care but not without flair. He is an extremely gifted boxer and can be relied on to unleash beautiful punches inside from all angles.

Holyfield was not finished and made one further attempt, in the tenth, to land a knock-out punch. He caught Lewis with two blows and forced him to hold. As Holyfield put on the pressure, Lewis seemed to be weakening somewhat but he somehow managed to prevent clean blows landing on his chin. In the eleventh, Holyfield tried to follow up this momentary advantage but Lewis, with his pawing jab, kept him out.

The last round was a good one for Lewis, as realising he was well ahead, he shimmered and danced round Holyfield, picking him off easily with the jab. At the bell, he raised his right hand to signify victory. But as lustily as his supporters acknowledged his signal, their cheers soon turned to boos when the official result was announced.

Lewis a dual winner even if ultimate prize goes begging

ROB HUGHES



at Madison Square Garden

Lennox Lewis is the winner without the crown, but decidedly a more mature and better man this morning. As he stood in Madison Square Garden in the early hours of yesterday morning, he had two-thirds of what he came for the respect of the boxers of the world as well as what all of them crave — money. His efforts mean his bank balance is today \$10 million (about £6.65 million) healthier.

What he lacked, and what no amount of lamentation over the decidedly inept judging will rectify, was the title of being the only British-born heavyweight this century to be acclaimed "undisputed champion of the world".

There is still time, especially as Evander Holyfield, his opponent on Saturday night, has since said repeatedly that there will be a rematch. And if the accountability is true, if this bout in New York has generated something approaching \$70 million in takings, then even against the better judgment of those who might care for the palpably declining Holyfield, there will indeed be a second contest to unify the titles before this year is through.

Whether boxing fans will be lured to it with quite such anticipation, or with belief that justice can be delivered in the ring, is another matter.

For if there was neither a winner nor a loser in the eyes of the supposedly independent three judges, then boxing itself is on the ropes. Some followers cling to the belief that the sport is indestructible, yet in the ring on Saturday, especially when two women fought a bloody contest on the undercard, it looked absolutely perishable. It will be even harder to protect if more verdicts go the way of this one.

In the aftermath of the contest, after the majority of 21,284 spectators had dispersed, Larry Merchant, a veteran Washington reporter, said: "I'm ashamed to be a fight fan and an American."

Others banded around unacceptable words, they said the contest was "a fix", "a tragedy". The second of those two statements rankles deeply, for neither boxer, nor the sport, suffered a tragedy. Tragically is what befell an 18-year-old basketball player in Columbus, Indiana, earlier in the day, for he, a freshman standing 7 ft tall, collapsed and died on the court. The newspapers in New York did not find a paragraph for him. He remained anonymous.

With all the clamour at Madison Square, all the celebrities drawn like a magnet, neither Lewis nor Holyfield would begin or end this night remotely anonymous. Up to 6,000 Lewis supporters had flown to New York, or were they merely the underclass of Wembley Stadium.

um, foul-mouthed nationalistic representatives who reviled and whistled down anything and everything American, including the supremely sung national anthem by D'Angelo. The crowd, apart from a tiny handful, included people who could not tolerate the dignity of a cathedral bush while ten bells tolled in respect to New York's baseball idol, Joe DiMaggio. But officialdom in the United States, too, can be crass. After Lewis had entered the arena in a passive, almost trance-like state to reggae music, after Holyfield had come in singing aloud to a gospel theme, the announcer

clusions. But the feeble attempts of Williams to fend off American interrogators after she had scored the bout by two clear rounds to her countryman, beggars belief.

The scoring of the fifth round, in particular, was baffling. The New York State Athletic Commission's handwritten scorecard showed a puzzling discrimination over a round that Lewis dominated — his left jab seemingly never to stray from the target of Holyfield.

O'Connell gave the round to Lewis, yet the total he recorded was difficult to decipher. Christodoulou actually altered his verdict, or the recordist did. But Williams scored the round, clearly, and amazingly, to Holyfield, despite the computer registering 43 contacts by Lewis to a paltry 11 by Holyfield.

It was crucial judging. It was also a turning point. For in America, where aggression counts more than style, Lewis appeared from that round to be controlled to the point of passivity.

He has a dignity strange to the jungle of heavyweight fighting — so much so that Americans such as Angelo Dundee, formerly the mentor Muhammad Ali, accuse him of not giving 100 per cent.

It is almost as if, with his man on the run, he does not want to devastate, or destroy, another human being in the ring. To be fair, given the warrior reputation of Holyfield, and given that only Lewis could decide whether his opponent remained dangerous and unimpaired by the continual sting of his own blows, he should be entitled to control the bout the way he wishes.

When Lennox Lewis is 50 years old, Lewis himself, in his characteristic way using the third person, has said, "he's going to be able to get out of bed. When Evander Holyfield is 50, I don't think he'll be able to speak."

That was a reference to his own caution, to his inner control, his almost Olympian belief that boxing should be about how you score the points instead of how you can debilitate an opponent, or risk debilitation. Ultimately, in the maddening arena at Madison Square, this strange passivity, this contradiction to the raw code of boxing, contributed in preventing the undisputed title from escaping America's shore.

But tragic? Absolutely not. That may come if there is a rematch, for looking at the resigned, almost apologetic Holyfield, one was bound to recall the sign in a car parked overnight at Central Park: "Tank empty," it read, "ignition not connected." Holyfield, after so many unbloody wars, is almost empty as a world title contender.

Injustice takes a ringside seat

John Goodbody chronicles a history of contentious refereeing decisions

THE judgment of referees and umpires has always provoked controversy in sport. Over the centuries their decisions have delighted some and outraged others.

There was widespread criticism of the referee when Randolph Turpin lost his World Middleweight title in New York in 1951 to Sugar Ray Robinson. The referee stopped the contest in the tenth round with Turpin taking heavy punishment but with only eight seconds remaining. Even if he had gone down, Turpin would have lasted until the next round to fight an opponent who had suffered a badly-cut eye.

Henry Cooper, another of Britain's most popular boxers, lost his Commonwealth, European and British heavyweight titles in a most contentious decision when Harry Gibbs, at the time the premier referee in Britain, gave Joe Bugner the points verdict in 1971. Few people at ringside agreed.

There have been international disputes in both ice skating and gymnastics, both of which rely entirely on officials' opinions. Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean lost the Olympic title in 1994 when eight of the nine judges were not influenced by the more theatrical routines of the Britons, preferring the more technical exhibition of the Russian winners.

In gymnastics the Romanian team was ordered home by its Government from the 1977 European championships after a marking row over Nadia Comaneci, the 1976 Olympic champion.

Football also produces contentious decisions. Who can forget Newcastle's over-the-byline-cross that brought the equaliser against Arsenal in the 1932 FA Cup semi-final. Geoff Hurst's goal in the 1966 World Cup final or the "hand of God" incident involving Diego Maradona in the 1986 World Cup?

'It was my time to shine and they ripped me off'

LENNOX LEWIS: "I'm so disappointed. It was my time to shine and they ripped me off. I'm the undisputed champion of the world and the whole world knows that. What happened there is what you call politics. I felt like I won the fight hands down. Holyfield should give me those belts. He knows they are mine."

EVANDER HOLYFIELD: "There ain't nothing like a man who, when he gets an opportunity, he shines. The man [Lewis] really shined. I never said he wasn't tough. The man showed he was tough. I'm not disappointed. I did all I could. The judges make the decision and I have to live with it. I can still get him. I guess I did the best I could. That's not my best though."

GEORGE FOREMAN (former world heavyweight champion): "The Queen and all her subjects can be proud. Lennox Lewis proved he is no doubt the best heavyweight in the world today. He should forget about tonight. It's over. Just get up, dust your pants off, fight him again and knock him out next time."

EMANUEL STEWARD (Lewis's trainer): "Lennox and I are disgusted. I gave Evander three rounds at most. What I saw

REACTION

was Lennox working with a sparring partner, only we don't give them \$20 million for their work. It was not even a close fight. This hurts boxing. I don't take it lightly, I take it with disgust."

DON KING (promoter): "They [judges] are human beings. It was significant that the British judge gave 115-115. Who am I to be guessing the judges? When you have a man on the ropes, you're supposed to finish him, not play chess with him. Evander has to face the great giant. Let's just get them back in the ring."

WALLACE MATTHEWS (New York Post columnist): "The fight plan may have been drawn up by the Lord, but the scorecards bore the mark of the devil. It was a night in which the glory and honour of boxing was supposed to return to its former home, instead, the stink returned to the air over the ring. Lennox Lewis beat Evander Holyfield from here to London — with stop-offs in Jamaica and Canada along the way."

FRANK MALONEY (Lewis's manager): "The look on 20,000 people's faces tells the whole

story. We were robbed. It's an absolute con. If I was Tony Blair I'd cut off all diplomatic relations with America. This result has set boxing back into the dark ages."

LOU DIBELLA (vice-president of Time Warner Sport): "I saw that the majority of people made Lewis the undisputed champion. The scoring was shocking. I didn't see it as a close fight but, even if I don't complain about the judge who made it a draw, how can anyone looking at the fight make Holyfield the winner by three rounds? It's impossible. That judge should not work again."

ROY JONES (World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion): "I feel ashamed about what happened tonight. I love Evander Holyfield, but Lennox Lewis did not lose it."

LOU DUVA (former trainer of Holyfield): "I think the decision was terrible. I had it 9-3. It wasn't that exciting a fight but Lewis absolutely won the fight."

the same improvements, we should be all right," Terment said. However, a tense denouement appears likely because Burnley are now in the relegation zone. Last season they left it to the final day to ensure safety and it could be too close for comfort once again.

BURNLEY 15-321 P. Cochrane 1 (defender), S Davis 2 (striker), S Briggs, G Armstrong (sub), P Eastwood, J Zokor 1 (striker), G Little, M Wilson, P Jarmy 1 (striker).

PRESTON NORTH END 14-4-21 B. Lucas 1, J Darby, M Jackson, C Muldoon, D Ludden 1, A Gray, S Grogan (sub), M Appleton, 35), M Rankine, 0 (striker), J Miskin 54) - S Eastham, 1 (striker), J Morgan.

Referee: C. Wikes

هكذا من الأهل

Oliver Holt sees United's opponents struggle before their big match

Ronaldo the dreamer facing rude awakening

At their training camp on the edge of the cornfields, they paraded Ronaldo in front of the Italian press yesterday and it felt like watching those television pictures that autocrats distribute sometimes to reassure the people that their ailing leader is still alive.

He looked content enough, this man who has become more than a man in Milan, who has become something they call The Phenomenon. He smiled as he walked slowly up the wide spiral staircase to the interview room and got a few laughs by saying a mannered "thank you" to the English media at the end of a press conference that he had conducted in fluent Italian.

He knows that international expectations expect him to save their season against Manchester United on Wednesday night, that they are desperate for him to inspire their ailing side to overcome the 2-0 deficit they take into the second leg of their European Cup quarter-final.

So he spoke of his "duty" and others said that, with Ronaldo in the side, anything is possible. It does not seem to make any difference that he started his first game for two months only on Saturday night, that he managed only 45 half-hearted minutes in the cauldron of the San Siro. He is, quite palpably, not fit.

If Inter were not in such a sorry state, marooned mid-table in Serie A and freshly knocked out of the Italian Cup, they would not contemplate rushing him back like this. On Saturday, as the red smoke bombs cascaded down on to the pitch, turning the vast arena into a scarlet hell, Ronaldo

looked like half a player, nervous of tackles, marginalised by the excellence of Alessandro Costacurta.

Yet still Inter depend on him like a lame man leaning on a splintered crutch. "I have suffered to try to be ready for this match. I have worked and worked to get over my injury and last night, for the first time, I played without pain," Ronaldo said. "I am not 100 per cent fit but we all know that if Manchester United score, we must be prepared to score more and more."

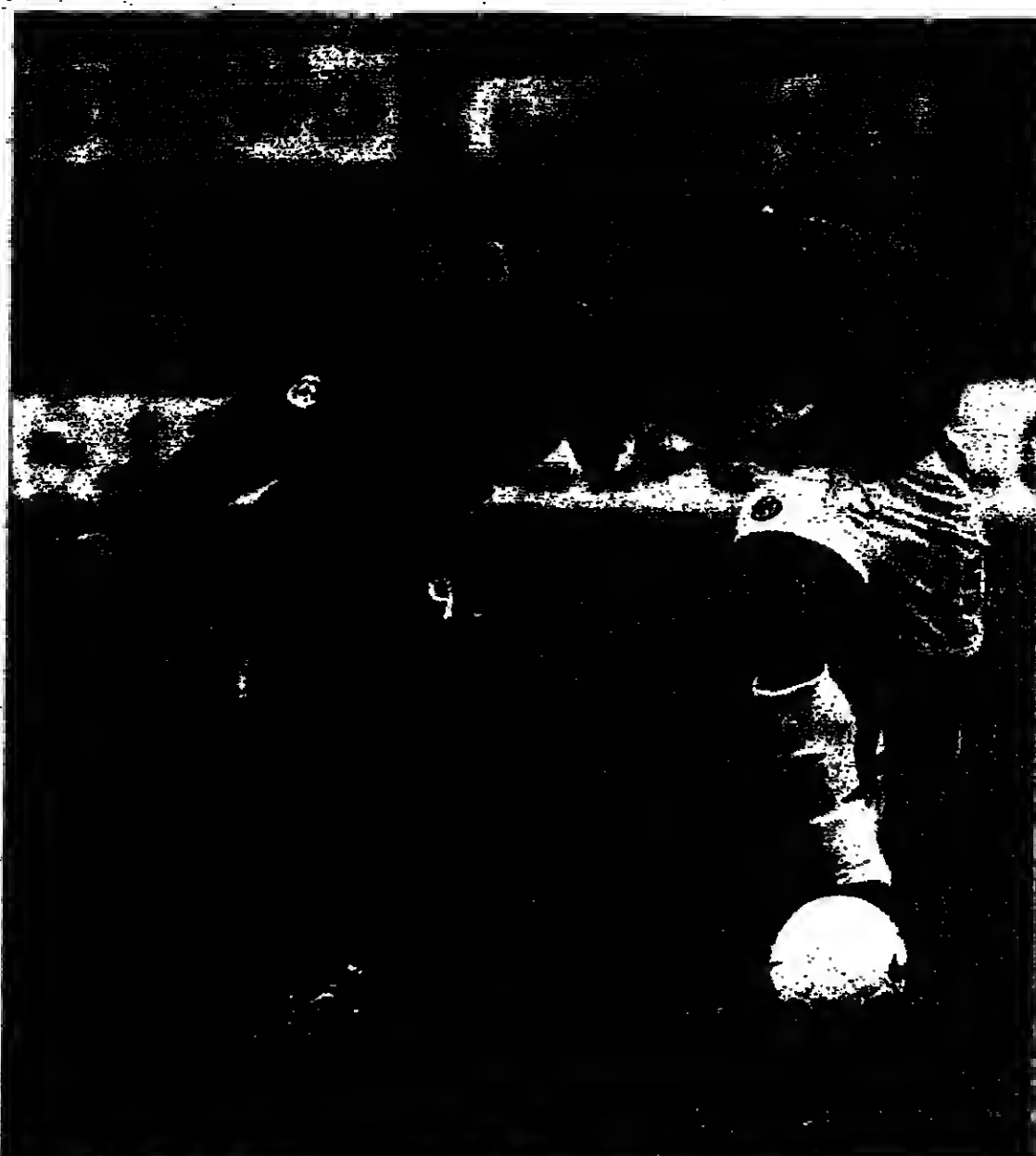
He has felt this way before. He has felt the pressure squashing him like a crusher in a breaker's yard. It broke him in the World Cup final and now, eight months later, Ronaldo is having to confront it all over again.

The spectre of United was everywhere he looked, every way he turned. It was in those smoke bombs at the San Siro on Saturday night and in the taunts of AC Milan's red brigades and the United flags that they unfurled high on the Curva Sud.

Yesterday, the spectre of United even bushwhacked him at the Inter retreat in Appiano Gentile. It came in the beguiling form of a smiling six-year-old Italian boy they called Fausto, who had been watching shyly from the back of the room as Ronaldo spoke.

Someone at the front called him forward. They told him to show Ronaldo what shirt he was wearing underneath his jumper but he squirmed away, giggling. Ronaldo smiled uncertainly and then someone told him why the boy was so embarrassed. He was wearing a United shirt, they said. His favourite player was David Beckham.

That Ronaldo will start the match



The returning Ronaldo, left, is off the pace as he goes in for a challenge with N'Gotty, of AC Milan

against Roy Keane, Jaap Stam, Dwight Yorke and the rest now seems certain. That he will be unable to turn the tide of the tie, though, seems equally assured. His own lack of fitness and confidence aside, Inter looked every bit as vulnerable in defence as they had done at Old Trafford ten days ago, when they fell to two goals fashioned by Beckham and headed home by Yorke.

On that occasion it was Aron Winter, playing at left wing back, who was exposed by the brilliance of Beckham. On Saturday night, Inter switched to a 4-4-2 system but, once more, they were undone by their vulnerability on that same left flank.

Inter had replaced Winter with the full back, Michael Silvestre, but he was overrun by the incursions of the Danish wing back, Thomas Helveg, and by the trickery of Leonardo, who scored both the goals for AC Milan, with only an own goal and Zanetti sparing Inter's blushes.

The longer the game continued, the more Alex Ferguson's assured prediction that United will score on Wednesday, so forcing Inter to score at least four times in reply if they are to progress, assumed credence.

That is why Inter need Ronaldo so badly now, that is why they are falling into the same trap that Brazil plunged into in the hours before the

World Cup final, when they saw the illusion of their supremacy disappearing with Ronaldo's convulsions.

Once more he will be at centre stage on Wednesday, when he has not had time to learn his lines. His only refuge is in dreams. "I dream every night about scoring goals," he said yesterday. "The night before the game against Manchester United will not be any different."

INTERNAZIONALE (4-4-2): G. Pagliuca — F. Colaninno, D. Sime, T. West, M. Silvestre — J. Zanetti, P. Sosa (left), R. Chel, S. Sforzi, O. Sivocini, Y. Deshaies (left), R. Gargano, 69' — Ronaldo (left), M. Veroni, 46', 122 minutes.
AC MILAN (4-4-2): G. Alessi — B. N'Gotty, A. Costacurta, 46', 122 minutes.
GOALS: R. Chel (left), 81', A. Gargano (left), 85', 87', D. Sivocini, 87'.
References: P. Collins.

Viduka begins to repay Celtic's faith

Aberdeen 1
Celtic 5

By Phil Gordon

THE DELAY over Jorge Cadete's arrival turned out to be as costly for Jim Farry as it was for Celtic three years ago, yet putting a price on Mark Viduka's tardiness may be too painful to bear for the Scottish champions.

The Australia forward underlined the potent partnership that he has formed with Henrik Larsson and both scored twice in an impressive display at Pittodrie that reduced the gap on Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premier League to ten points.

Craig Burley's hooked shot in the last minute sealed the biggest win in Aberdeen in 36 years, but the real prize of a title might be within closer sight had they not been forced to endure Viduka's soap-opera transfer from Croatia Zagreb.

It was impossible to detect any shred of doubt in the home team during the early stages as they worked ceaselessly to close Celtic down and control the midfield.

However, menace remained Celtic's monopoly, with Larsson, not surprisingly, the chief goal threat. Derek Whyte, the Aberdeen central defender, halted Larsson's progress with a scything tackle, but the Sweden forward's free kick curled just over the bar.

The physical element, though, was underlined in the 19th minute when Mike Newell, the Aberdeen forward, clashed in the air with his marker, Johan Mjallby. It was accidental, but that was of little comfort to the Celtic player, who had to leave the field for three minutes to stem the flow of blood from his head wound.

Hardly had Celtic been restored to full strength than Viduka used his head to better effect, by putting them ahead in the 26th minute.

Regi Blinker, fortunately, was given a second chance to take his corner, because he placed the ball outside the arc. Whereas the first effort was

appalling, the reprise was flighted perfectly for Viduka, at the near post, to thump a downward header between the legs of defender Andy Dow, who was guarding the post, to squeeze over the line.

Aberdeen's move was not improved when they appeared to be denied a penalty four minutes later when the ball struck the hand of Riekeh, the Celtic defender.

Celtic crushed any optimism Aberdeen may have nursed for a comeback when Viduka doubled the advantage three minutes into the second half.

The Australian was involved at the onset, flicking a long ball into the path of Larsson, who transferred it to Blinker. The winger's pace created the space for a raking shot across the face of goal, eluding goalkeeper Derek Stille, but striking a post. Viduka, however, followed up to tap in the rebound.

Celtic killed the game in the 69th minute. Stille performed admirably to turn Larsson's free kick round a post, but from Blinker's short corner, McKinlay's cross sought out the unmarked Larsson whose header gave the goalkeeper little chance.

Aberdeen's frustration spilled over, though surprisingly in the case of Nigel Pepper. The substitute had been on the pitch for only six minutes when he was sent off in the 72nd minute for a dreadful tackle on Blinker.

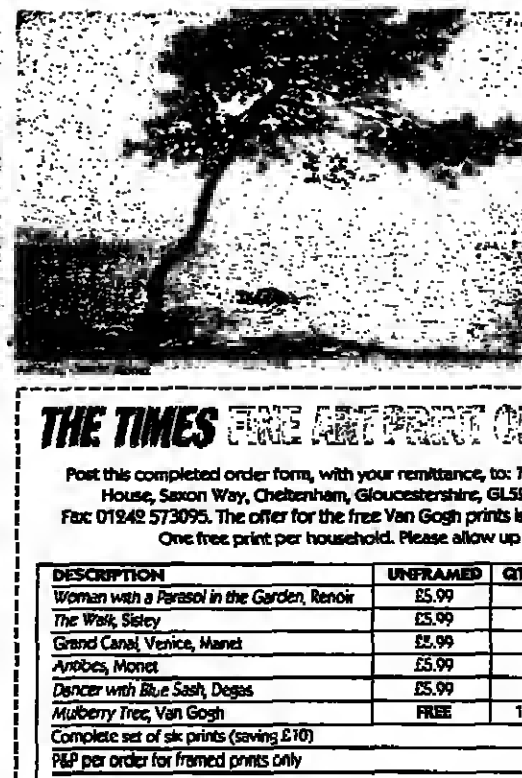
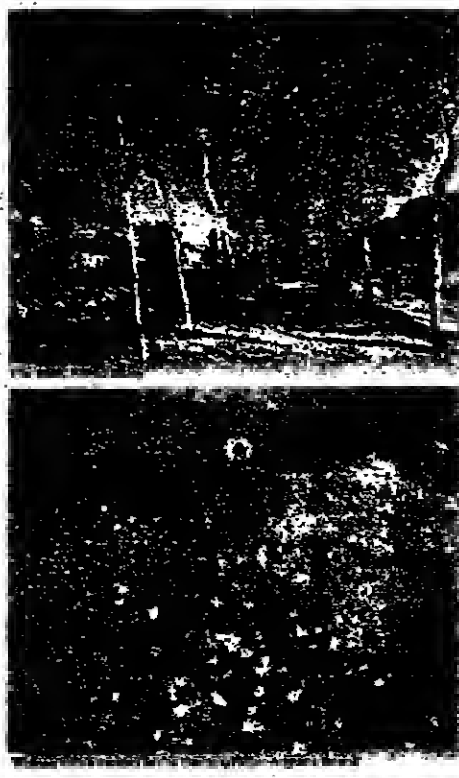
Larsson though, had not finished inflicting pain. A minute later, the Swede's dreadlocked head guided in Burley's excellent cross for his 35th goal of the season.

Robbie Winters gained some consolation for Aberdeen in the 79th minute, robbing Lambert and holding off two challenges before steering his shot past Gould but Burley restored Celtic's four-goal advantage a minute from time.
ABERDEEN (4-4-2): D. Stille — M. Fenn, D. Whyte, G. Smith, A. Dow — J. Mjallby, J. Sforzi, C. Burley, M. Pepper, 69 min, E. Joss, D. Whyte.
GOALS: M. Veroni (left), 26', A. Costacurta (left), 81', 87', D. Sivocini, 87'.
References: W. Young.

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CHANGING TIMES

CRICKET

Lara celebrates day of destiny

FROM PAT GIBSON IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

IT WAS Courtney Walsh Day at Sabina Park here, by decree of the West Indies Cricket Board, in recognition of the achievements of the great Jamaican fast bowler, but, in keeping with so many pronouncements that have embarrassed Caribbean cricket in recent times, they got the date wrong.

Saturday was Walsh's day. Yesterday undoubtedly belonged to Brian Lara, who could not have done more to convince them that there is no one else of his stature to lead them out of their present crisis with a wonderful exhibition of batsmanship that brought him his first century in 15 Tests and 18 months.

Whatever they think of his qualities of leadership — and they thought so little of them on the shambolic tour of South Africa that they virtually put him on probation for the first two Tests against Australia — they could only admire the character and skill with which he responded to the greatest challenge of his career.

Lara could not have been under greater pressure in this second Test, which will decide his

future as captain. He seemed to be doing his best to meet the selectors' criteria, reacting positively to most situations and encouraging his bowlers at every opportunity on the first day, when Australia needed a resolute century from their captain, Steve Waugh, and an equally idiosyncratic 67 from his twin, Mark. To recover from Walsh's opening salvo.

However, Lara was booed to the crease when he went out to bat with his side in desperate straits at five for two in response to Australia's 256. A sceptical public was even scoffing that, if he was out early when they resumed on 37 for four, West Indies might struggle to avoid the follow-on.

Lara gave them the perfect answer. He saw off first the spin of Shane Warne and then the pace of Glenn McGrath with the most watchful, studious demonstration of defensive batting. It was almost faultless, especially against McGrath, whose dominance over him in the past two series had done as much as anything to end 20 years of West Indies supremacy over Australia.

As if in celebration, Lara

swivelled to pull McGrath gloriously and then greeted the appearance of Stuart MacGill by smashing his first ball, a full toss, to the boundary and driving him contemptuously through the covers.

Lara had been given gallant support by Pedro Collins, the bowler who had gone in as nightwatchman 20 minutes before the close on Saturday and stayed for another 40 minutes yesterday, helping Lara to add 22 before he was felled by a ball from Jason Gillespie that forced him to retire hurt.

This brought in Jimmy Adams, but well as he played in support of Lara, there was no comparison between the two. At lunch, when he had made 42, Lara went off to a standing ovation from the George Headley Stand and though he went through his stickiest patch against McGrath immediately afterwards, edging high to the left of second slip, where even Mark Waugh could not cling to the catch, he moved up a gear in the afternoon.

His fifty took him 198 minutes, 140 deliveries and contained only six fours, but soon he was dancing down the pitch to drive Warne for six, clipping him through mid-wicket and sweeping him for four like a man released.



Makeba Perry slam-dunks for Manchester Giants in their Uni-ball Trophy final victory over Derby Storm

BASKETBALL

Baker deliveries vital for Giants

Manchester Giants90
Derby Storm69

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

FOR those of us who went along to the National Exhibition Centre expecting a one-sided contest on Saturday, the Uni-ball Trophy final had two saving graces.

The first was that Derby Storm made a gallant game of it before succumbing to Manchester Giants. The second, a blessing for most Englishmen, was that Ronnie Baker, the only current home-based England international, was voted most valuable player.

But for the presence of Baker in the Giants' back court, where he raised the tempo and shot five invaluable three pointers, Laszlo Nemeth, the England coach, could have been forgiven for believing he was wasting his time among the 6,500 crowd. "What else is there apart from Ronnie," Nemeth replied when asked why he had bothered to attend.

Nick Nurse, the Giants' coach, was full of debt to the darting, dextrous 5ft 4in Baker for bringing the first honour to Manchester's basketball in all its different guises for 13 years. "If he hadn't banged in those

three, it could have been ugly," Nurse said, recalling his squad's early indifferent start that left them facing a potential upset.

Derby, without the banned pair of Yorick Williams and Rico Alderson, were further weakened by the recent knee ligament injury that kept Nick Donovan, the 6ft 11in England centre, on the bench. In the circumstances it was astonishing not only that Derby's depleted squad clutched more offensive rebounds than Manchester, but led for so long.

Martin Ford, Maurice Robinson and John Tresvant challenged for every loose ball to retain the advantage that Nate Reinking was primarily responsible for giving the Storm. He sank the first seven points to the huge delight of his coach Bob Donewald, ever the showman, who acted as unofficial cheerleader, pleading with the Derby supporters to raise the decibel level.

For the first three minutes those supporters were in heaven. It took the Giants that long to open their account through Baker whose third long-range shot reduced the Derby advantage to 18-17 at the end of their first quarter.

LEADING SCORERS: Manchester: Ronnie Baker 22, Steve White 18, Pat 17, Derby: Steve Burns 20, Petering 16, Robinson 14.

BADMINTON

Duo bring hope of future success

BY RICHARD EATON

SIMON ARCHER and Joanne Goode became the first home winners of an All-England title for five years when they beat South Koreans Ha Tae-Kwon and Chung Jae-Hee 15-2 15-13 in a mixed doubles final that offered hope of badminton in this country gaining fresh momentum in the new millennium.

For Goode, who feared that her career at the highest level was over when she became pregnant after the Atlanta Olympics, it was especially notable. She became the first mother for 14 years to win an All-England title, achieving it on Mother's Day with a performance that was timely for her, the tournament and the sport. Funding has been coming into badminton; only success had been missing.

Archer and Goode achieved this in a tight finish after a runaway first game in which Ha had been troubled by a knee and spent so much time binding it up that Keith Hawthorne, the referee, was called on to monitor the delay.

The English trailed 5-8, led 12-8, then slipped to 12-13 at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena and put 4,000 hearts in their owners' mouths by missing four match points before Archer's low serve and quick kill finished it.

Earlier, Ye Zhaoying became the first player since Judy Hashman in 1964 to win the women's singles title three times in a row, though the final against Dai Yun, her compatriot, was little more than a training exercise. Ye's 9-11, 11-15 win was played almost in silence, unlike the hyper-tension surrounding the men's final won by Peter Gade, the world No 1 from Denmark, who was embraced by his girlfriend, Camilla Martin, the other Danish world No 1, after she had disentangled herself from a tussle with two rather conspicuous stewards.

Gade won the sport's oldest title 15-11, 7-15, 15-10 against its youngest finalist in the open era, Tawfik Hadyat, 17, of Indonesia, who remained the sensation of the tournament after earlier beating two of the leading seeds.

ATHLETICS: BIRCHFIELD HARRIER WITH ACTING ASPIRATIONS WINS NATIONAL MEN'S TITLE

Pugsley provides the theatrics

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

JUSTIN PUGSLEY is the new English National senior men's cross country champion but, had the actor in him been more talented, he would have been appearing at the National rather than running in it. The stage is Pugsley's first love.

The 27-year-old Birchfield Harrier won the title between rehearsals for his school production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The Yellow Brick Road on Friday and Sunday, the ploughed fields of Newark and Notts Showground on Saturday.

"Running is the bane of my life," Pugsley said, a somewhat surprising admission from a highly-trained athlete. "It is not what I want to be doing. I want to be singing in a musical at the West End." Extraordinary. Never in the 112-year history of this cherished old championship can there have been such a reluctant holder of the title.

Winning the National is every club runner's dream. Barry Royden, who was runner-up for the second time but who has never won it, has made it his life's goal. All but a handful of the 1,500 who followed Pugsley to the finish knew that, for them, winning can only ever be fantasy, never an ambition.

Yet Pugsley does not live and breathe running, like those around him. "I have been given this ability but, if there was something I could do instead, I would do it."

"I went for an audition for a West End musical and saw how many talented people

there were and I thought: 'I am not that good.' Nevertheless, away from the West End, he has appeared in *Chess*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Barnum*.

Fittingly, Pugsley brought a theatrical end to his victory at Newark. In the finish funnel he received a rose from Mary Cash, the English Cross-Country Association president. "I don't know you, but I love you," he shouted.

Bursting into song, Pugsley gave a chorus of *Please Release Me*. Yet he cannot be released from the chains of athletics. "I crave to be recognised and it is the one thing I can do to achieve that," he said.

Pugsley is soon to become house master in charge of 18 choristers at Lichfield. "I look at these kids running and see their enthusiasm," Pugsley said. "It makes me think: 'Why have I not got it?'"

From Newark, Pugsley was off to see the wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz. The National final was won by Dorothy in his sights. "Dorothy was dodgy on Friday," Pugsley said. As director of the production, there was work to do before opening night. "Judy Garland would not have had as hard a time as I give them," he suggested.

For race drama, the senior women's event topped the bill. Angela Newport came from third place, with 400 metres to go, to win. Most races were marked by runaway victories, none more so than Sam Haughian's by 1min 34sec in the under-20 event.

Wasim inaugurates a new hall of fame

WASIM AKRAM, the Pakistan captain, became the first bowler to claim a hat-trick in two consecutive Test matches yesterday as Pakistan took a firm grip on the Asian Test final on the third day in Dhaka.

Wasim's feat came after double centuries by Jaz Ahmed and Imran-ul-Haq had left Sri Lanka on the brink of a heavy defeat. Jaz made 211 and Imran an unbeaten 200 as Pakistan ground down the Sri Lanka attack to pile up an imposing 594 shortly before the close.

Wasim then created a sensation as Sri Lanka, needing 364 to avoid an innings defeat, slipped to nine for three in 13 deliveries before stumps.

The former Lancashire captain, who achieved a similar feat in the Lahore Test last

week, destroyed the fired top order with speed and movement. He had Avishka Gunawardena caught brilliantly in the slips by Shahid Afridi from his fifth ball and shattered the stumps of the night-watcher, Chaminda Vaas, from the next. Wasim removed Mahela Jayawardena with his first ball of the next over, having him caught in the slips.

In Christchurch, Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis shared a record unbeaten second-wicket stand of 315 as South Africa established a lead of 274 to take into the final day of the second Test against New Zealand. Gibbs finished the fourth day on 211 with Kallis keeping him company on 148 as the touring side advanced to 442 for one.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Robertson takes centre stage

Cathy Harris reports on the exciting closing rounds of the national schools netball championships

Whatever the outcome, Croydon High School had every reason to celebrate the 31st annual national schools championships at Roedean School on Saturday. With teams qualifying from all three age groups, the occasion marked a personal milestone for Croydon's head of netball, Liz Robertson, who has guided sides to the finals for 30 successive years.

Presided with an engraved pen and pencil set by the All England Netball Association in recognition of her achievement, it would have rounded off a remarkable day if one of Robertson's teams had triumphed. She had returned with the same under-19 side who lost last year's final but in the end she had to settle for two fifth places and a seventh.

Robertson said: "It's been jolly hard work and I'm very proud of the school's achievements. The expectations are immense but I honestly don't mind when they lose. I'm sure the girls at Croydon are no different to any others in that they're involved in so many other activities and some will probably never play again once they've left school. I firmly believe that enjoyment is the most important factor and you can't win all the time."

Starting at the end of last year with county and regional qualifying games, 54 teams from three age groups made the most of bright conditions in Sussex, playing 225 matches on 12 courts en route to the finals.

Last season's runners-up, Bacup and Rawtenstall, captured their first national title in the under-14 section, and Our Lady's Chetwynde,

from Cumbria, crushed Oldham VI Form College's hopes of becoming the first team to make it a hat-trick of wins when they lifted their third under-19 title in six years. Fairfax, from Sutton Coldfield, collected the under-16 championship when they edged out last year's beaten finalists, Braxbourne, by a solitary goal.

In a follow-up to a pilot scheme last year, England's coach, Mary Beardwood, and the chairman of the national selectors, Liz Broomhead, along with the management teams of the junior national squads attended the event to identify talent for the England under-17 and England 2000 squads. Players will be invited to training camps at one of eight area academies.

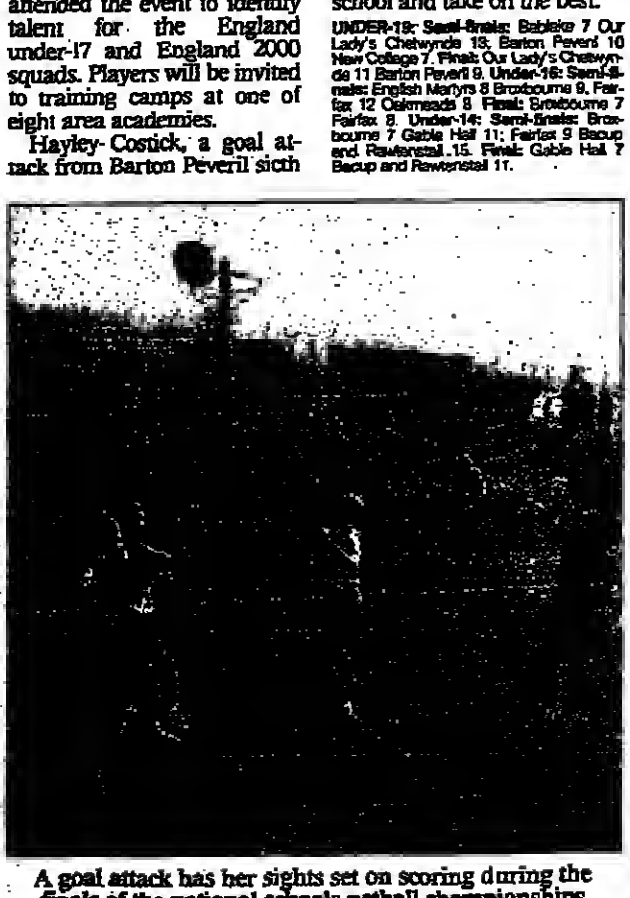
Hayley Costick, a goal attack from Barton Peveril sixth

form college in Eastleigh, Hampshire, is a member of the England 2000 squad, and Jill Mulrooney, Natalie Connor and Melissa Storey from The English Martyrs School in Hartlepool that came close to clinching a place in the under-16 final, have represented England under-17.

Fairfax also boast under-17 internationals in defenders Amy Leach and Georgina Williams, with both playing key roles in their squad's success, while three other players from the school have been invited to attend the academy training. Winners of the under-14 group last year, their coach, Thea Hassall, must take much of the credit for steering her young side to successive titles.

Since 1970, Robertson has seen numerous changes, especially in the standard of play. "It has improved unbelievably," she said. "And it's amazing how much more netball is played at all levels. I think it's become very physically demanding for the players, but this event is unique in that it gives so many girls the opportunity to represent their school and take on the best."

UNDER-16: Goal-keepers: Bobbie 7 Our Lady's Chetwynde 15, Barton Peveril 10 New College 7, Finch Old Lady's Chetwynde 11 Barton Peveril 9, Under-15: Sarah-Jane English 8 Braxbourne 8, Fairfax 12 Colmans 9, Finch Old Lady's Chetwynde 9, Under-14: Sarah-Jane English 8 Braxbourne 8, Fairfax 12 Colmans 9, Finch Old Lady's Chetwynde 11 Barton Peveril 9, Under-13: Sarah-Jane English 8 Braxbourne 8, Fairfax 12 Colmans 9, Finch Old Lady's Chetwynde 11 Barton Peveril 9.



A goal attack has her sights set on scoring during the finals of the national schools netball championships

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The datum (average result) on today's hand from the Macallan International Pairs was +600 to East-West as game is cold in spades or diamonds. It was therefore imperative for East-West to collect the full +800 from South's sacrifice in Five Clubs to gain on the board, rather than +500 and lose on it.

Dealer South	Game all	IMP's									
	♠ 852										
	♥ Q103										
	♦ A5										
	♣ J10754										
♠ K973	<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ AQ105
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ 72	♥ KJ96										
♦ K10832	♦ QJ874										
♣ KA	♣ -										
	♠ J4										
	♥ A854										
	♦ 8										
	♣ AQ9632										
S	W	N	E								
2♠	Price	Robson	Townsend								
1C	Pass	1NT	Double								
2S		3C									
5C	Double	All Pass	4B								

Contract: Five Clubs Doubled, by South. Lead: three of spades.

East won the ace of spades and returned the six to West's king. If West lazily continues spades at this point, declarer ruffs, cashes the ace of diamonds, ruffs a diamond, and throws him back in with ace and another club. Now when he returns a heart declarer puts in the ten and ducks East's jack. East is endplayed and South escapes for two down, only 500.

But West, David Price, was wide awake and switched to the seven of hearts at trick three. Zia covered with the ten and carefully let the jack hold. Again a spade back fails: declarer ruffs, eliminates diamonds, cashes the aces of clubs and hearts and throws West in with the king of clubs to concede a ruff-and-discard. Townsend carefully played back a diamond to remove this threat.

Now declarer is a dummy entry short to eliminate both spades and diamonds, and West has an exit card when he gets in with the king of clubs. The defenders get all five of their tricks for +800. Hard work for a mere 5 IMP swing.

□ The European Open and Seniors Pairs start in Warsaw today. Good luck to all British contestants, though they will do well to come home with any medal as France and Poland have both sent most of their top players.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VISHNUITE
a. A Hindu
b. A metal
c. Arctic twilight

ZYGAEANA
a. A gypsy
b. A grammatical hiatus
c. A fish

VALETAILE
a. A lot of valets
b. A farewell speech
c. A Provencal cabbage

ZERUMBET
a. A conical head-dress
b. An aromatic plant
c. A Carthaginian god

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Cambridge win

Cambridge University, the slight underdog in the annual Varsity match against Oxford, scored an overwhelming victory which belied the fact that the only grandmaster present was playing for the Dark Blues side.

The contest was held at the RAC in London and sponsored by Tony Buzan and the Brain Trust charity. Full results are as follows (Cambridge players precede Oxford players on the list): Brian Kelly (Trinity) v Dharshan Kumaran (Green), Draw; Harriet Hunt (St John's) v Jonathan Rowson (Keele), Draw; Mark Ferguson (Queens) v Aleksander Trifunovich (St Anne's), Draw; Karl Mah (Embrooke) v Oliver Rosten (Somerville), Draw; James Vigus (St Dunstons) v Benjamin Savage (Lady Margaret), 1-0; David Moskovich (Queens) v Joel Quaknine (St Cross), 1-0; Aaron Cohen (Queens) v Kieran Smallbone (New), Draw; Nathan Alfred (Kings) v Emily Howard (Lincoln), 1-0. Total: 5.5-2.5.

The following game won the brilliancy prize awarded by Rowe and Maw, City solicitors.

White: David Moskovich
Black: Joel Quaknine
Varsity Match 1999

Sicilian Defence

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 e6
3. d4 exd4
4. Nd4 Nc6
5. Nc3 a6
6. Nxe6 bxc6
7. e5 Qc7

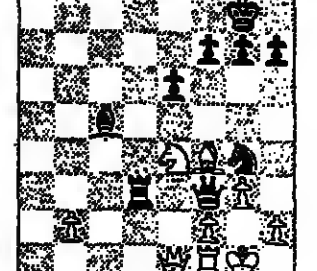
Times Book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99+p&p).

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Garbacz - Krasenkov, Poland 1998. Black has tremendous pressure against the f2-square. Can you calculate the fine tactical sequence which he found to exploit this?



Solution on page 46

SNOW REPORTS						
SKI CLUB	Depth	Conditions	Forecast	Weather	Last snow	
	(cm)	Piste	Back to Forest	Offp.		(Snow) °C
Alps						
Georgi	65 300	Good	Shady	Varied	Sun 5 8/3	
St Anton	80 530	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun 0 8/3	
Flims						
Alpe d'Huez	160-340	Good	Snow	Spring	Sat -2 8/3	
Flaine	150-580	Good	Sunny	Varied	Sun 10 8/3	
La Plagne	105-255	Good	Sunny	Fair	Fri 1 9/3	
Les Arcs	160-330	Good	Sunny	Varied	Sat 10 8/3	
Isère	15-200	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Fri 8 8/3	
Tignes	157-270	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Sun 2 8/3	
Val Thorens	200-578	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Sun 1 8/3	
Val d'Isère	113-300	Good	Sunny	Fair	Sat 8 10/3	
Valmorel	105-290	Good	Sunny	Fair	Sat -8 8/3	
Italy						
Cortina	140-270	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Sat 2 11/3	
Lesigna	88-205	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Sun 3 8/3	
Germany						
Garm	120-180	Good	Sunny	Powder	Sat 14/3	
Switzerland						
Chaux-de-Fonds	100-280	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Sun 5 8/3	
Verbier	125-330	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Sat -8 7/3	
Grindelwald	75-280	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Sat 15 8/3	
St. Moritz	80-280	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Sat -4 11/3	
St. Moritz	85-280	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Fri 2 8/3	
Verbier	85-280	Good	Sunny	Heavy	Fri 2 8/3	
United States						
Aspen	120-280	Good	Open	Varied	Sat -8 13/3	
Silver Valley	220-280	Good	Open	Varied	Fri -1 11/3	

MONDAY MATTERS

Keegan confronts some painful realities

Matt Dickinson says the new England manager's options are limited as he ponders his first squad selection

On the day that England's third coach of this year was appointed, one newspaper decided that there was no point in wasting time. "Keegan must go," declared the headline, although the tongue was firmly wedged in the cheek.

The depressing notion, as Keegan sits down to select his first international squad this week, is that it will not be a campaign by nasty football hacks that makes his job an impossible one. It is that it is the players, or rather the lack of truly outstanding ones, that has brought down successive managers.

Where, for example, does Keegan find a left-sided mid-

field player to face Poland the crucial European championship qualifier a week on Saturday? We are not talking about a great player, not even a very good one, but any international footballer whose left leg is not merely the one he stands on when he is kicking the ball with his right. Answer: by Thursday, please, to Lancaster Gate.

Darren Anderton was dispatched reluctantly to the left in the 2-0 defeat by France last month and looked as if he had been dropped on Mars. Instead of impressing Keegan at Pride Park on Saturday, Steve McManaman, who should have filled the role for the last two years, spent Saturday afternoon watching television.

"He was not injured, not ill," Gérard Houllier, his Liverpool manager, said, but he is moving to Real Madrid in the summer. So, through no fault of his own, one of the country's most talented footballers is spending his days twiddling his thumbs.

Given that it will be hard to select McManaman, does Keegan opt for Steve Guppy, Leicester City's hard-working winger? He thinks so highly of him that, while manager of Newcastle United, he let him go to Port Vale without play-

ing a league game. Jason Wilcox? The right-footed Paul Merson? Or does he push Graeme Le Saux into midfield with Phil Neville or Andy Hinchcliffe at left back?

Nor is central midfield a treasure chest, although there are promising young players available to him. Paul Ince is suspended so Keegan is spared the task of telling Liverpool's slowing captain that his international career is edging towards its close.

So the informed guesswork is that there will be a recall for

David Batty, whose last kick of a ball for England was that penalty miss against Argentina. To put Jamie Redknapp alongside him would make a one-paced midfield, even though the Liverpool player has become more dynamic, so Paul Scholes may be the best option.

That is assuming, of course, that David Beckham is kept wide on the right. What England would give for a player like Patrick Vieira, who cannot get into the France side. It is no wonder that Glenn

Hoddle had to go. There is no latitude for mismanaging what few brilliant players we do have, and Hoddle was increasingly guilty of it.

For Keegan, we can at least expect the players to perform with zest. Alan Shearer should be revitalised by the reunion with the man who signed him for Newcastle United. From Le Saux to Beckham, Cole to Sutton, there should be a lifting of the suspicion that had infected the Hoddle camp. But let nobody go into the next few months believing that Eng-

land's problems can be turned around purely by Keegan's stirring patriotism.

England are still trying to catch up. This remains one of the few leading football countries where ten-year-old kids still run about on big pitches with big goals instead of improving their technique. At the professional level, we remain the only country where international players are applauded for whacking the ball into the stands.

That is why Keegan is entitled to a sympathetic gallery, and why the FA also deserves some understanding as it deliberates on his successor. Alex Ferguson continues to be the name tossed around, but it is a vain hope. The word is that he

believes he is working with a superior group of players already, and he is probably right.

Keegan must be treated gently, not least because of his notoriously brittle temperament. It came close to shattering this season when the day job — management of Fulham in the Nationwide League second division — took a turn for the worse. Beaten for the first time at Craven Cottage, by Luton Town, Keegan threatened to resign if his players did not listen to instructions. The England coach should have no cause to step down after the game with Poland. The Poles can, and should, be beaten. But he needs all the support he can get.

'There are no surprises left in golf, only disappointments' — sad sentiments from a bygone hero

Fallen Faldo still refuses to flirt with failure

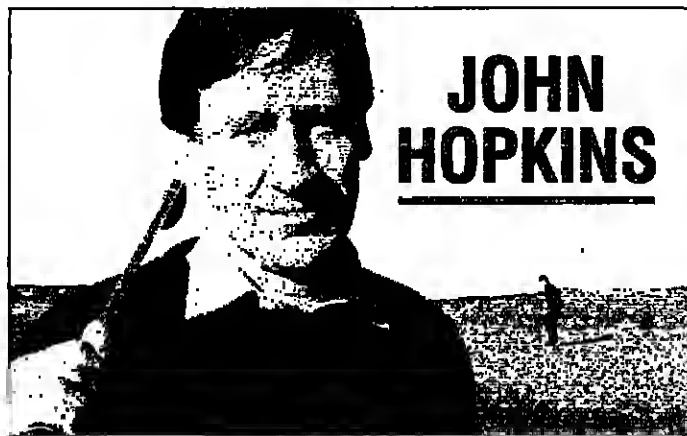
In January this year, Nick Faldo uttered the most depressing words I have heard on a golf course for a long time. He had just completed a bad round at the Houghton course in Johannesburg, another bad round, and was heading towards the practice ground again. "There are no surprises left in golf, only disappointments," Faldo said. This from the man who was once ranked the best golfer in the world for 80 weeks, whose mental strength obliterated Greg Norman in the Masters three years ago, who has won more major championships — six in all — since 1980 than any other golfer.

When success is around, failure is never far behind because the greater the degree of success, the greater the risk of failure. Faldo has had plenty of success. By many yardsticks, though, he is, at present, a failure. His consistency, once a byword, has gone. Only two of his 12 strokeplay rounds this year have been under par, so it is not surprising that he has missed the halfway cut in four of the five events in which he has competed. He is struggling to remain not in the top 50 but in the top 100 players in the world. His putting, which he used to practice on the linoleum in the kitchen of his parents' home, comes and goes and his ball striking is erratic.

Yet Faldo refuses to countenance the word failure. At its mention, he frowns and grimaces, as a priest might at an obscenity. "There is no point in thinking about it," he said. "You set yourself a goal, in this case to be in the Ryder Cup team, and there is no point in interjecting failure into it, otherwise there is no point in having it as a goal. You might as well give up."

"Sure, I might not make it, but I'm not going to let everyone think it is going to happen. If you think your ball is going to go into the lake, where does it go? That's the whole beauty of having something as a goal. It keeps you going, keeps you positive, keeps you out there. You've got to keep pursuing your goals and, if you can't be bothered to set goals or if a goal is failure, then you've got no chance."

"It is frustrating because I know what I can do. I have done it in the



JOHN HOPKINS

past — stood up there with an iron in my hand and fired it. 'whoooooosh', straight at the flag, but the boom line is that there is something wrong. It is not something that is in the lap of the gods. It is there and you still have to find it. It is a process of elimination."

Does it ever occur to Faldo that work might not be the answer? His

reply came quickly. "No. Work is always the answer."

"I don't believe the answer is sitting in an armchair saying 'well, I'll forget it for a week. It's all going to be all right'. I can't see that theory working at all."

"I come out every day really feeling good. I get up, go out to the golf course thinking 'yesterday we did

some really good work. I've got some good things to work on. Let's go out and play and let it all happen. I am really looking forward to it'. Those sort of thoughts. And what happens? Usually, I get a walloping. I think today it is going to change and it doesn't. That's the hardest bit."

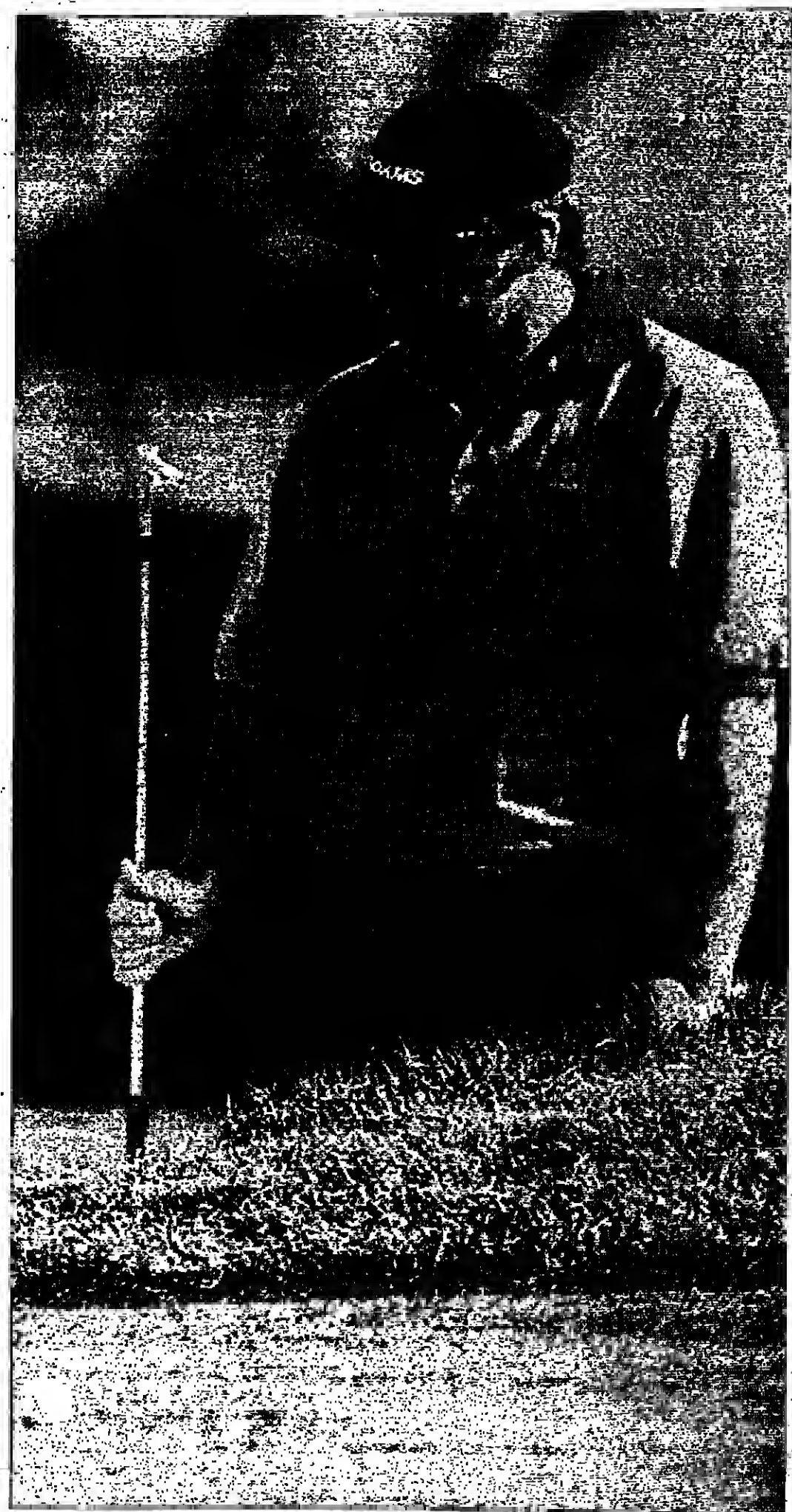
"I get angry out there. I get as mad as hell. That is either the wonderful thing or the hardest thing about golf. There are no guarantees in it. Put your clubs down for three months and you're rusty again. You've got to work your way back into it. Not many players don't work at it. All the greats have worked on it."

"I have had a lot of letters from people who have got the answer to my problem. I've had a few letters. I love the one that started off 'it's simple. I can solve your problems' and there were six pages of the finest writing you've ever seen in your life. It must have been well over 2,000 words. I didn't even read it. I thought if this is meant to be simple, I need it in two lines — do this, do that."

When you are down as low as Faldo, any recovery can only come in small stages. "You have to take it step by step. The next step is to start playing really solid, start getting some decent scores, get to the right end of the leaderboard. Then, we start looking at winning again. Win a regular event before we start thinking of winning majors, I guess."

And if, in the process, Faldo were not to make the Ryder Cup team? What would that mean? "I am planning to. I am not going to think negatively like that. A couple of months here [in the United States] to sort it out and then I will go back to Europe and start chipping away at the points."

"Nothing is easy at the moment. Yes, there are moments when you begin to wonder about it all. The game is giving you a beating all the time. You have to be very determined, that's the bottom line. You have got to keep chipping away all the time. I'll get there in the end. That's my attitude. I know I will. It ain't gonna beat me. I'm not going to roll over."



Present dilemma: Faldo curses his wedge during the recent matchplay championships in California



Times past: Faldo cheers his last major win at the 1996 Masters

SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Lewis fight aftermath

From Mr Cyril Wigmore Sir: It seems surprising that, despite all the millions of words written and spoken in pre-fight speculation about the likely result of the Holyfield-Lewis heavyweight championship, not one of the experts realised that the outcome had to be a draw.

A victory for either boxer would have reduced the income from the inevitable rematch by many millions of dollars.

Yours faithfully,
C.H. WIGMORE,
Updowns,
Surrey Road,
Shipton Oliffe,
Cheltenham GL54 4UG
cwigmore@globalnet.co.uk

From Mr Paul Vanchiere Sir: On behalf of Americans who witnessed the Lewis-Holy-

field fight this evening, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Lennox Lewis.

There is no doubt in my mind that he dominated the fight throughout the entire evening. He is truly the new undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. Shamefully witnessed. PAUL VANCHIERE, 3319 Swanson Lane, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601, USA. paul.vanchiere@prodigy.net

Varsity boxing

From Mr Neil Allen Sir: On the subject of the Varsity boxing match (report, March 11) of course there should never be an "unofficial" weigh-in for such a potentially dangerous sport as boxing as, reportedly, Oxford underwent at midday. It should have had official observers from the Amateur Boxing Association.

Lessons from the uplifting win by Wales in Paris

From Mr Christopher Downs Sir: I watched the France-Wales rugby union match and, though not normally delirious about Wales recording a win, thought the match represented everything wonderful about this game.

Then came England. What a myopic, introspective, boring encounter that turned out to be. Woodward's comments that he didn't care about the 22 penalties and that winning was the only important result flies in the face of what the watching public want.

I remember Woodward, along with

Cusworth, Hare and Dodge displaying their skills for Leicester, and what a joy they were to watch. Today the awful predictability of the England team, and total lack of innovative thought-bellies talent that must be searching for a greater stage.

Woodward must empower talented players with the chance to expand on their skills. The continual turning inside to seek the support of the colossal pack is indicative of the attitude that says we must not lose. Let's remember the Wales win with joy and hope that lessons will be

learned by the English team management. Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DOWNS,
Brook Lane, Billston, Leicester LE7 9AB.

From Mr Jim Andrews Sir: After the match in France, Graham Henry's men must look ahead with the statistic of never having lost at the Stade de France rather than never having won in Paris for almost a quarter of a century. Yours faithfully,
JIM ANDREWS,
19 Waldemar Avenue, Ealing W13 9PZ.

more won by the Light Blues. Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HALEY,
Captain, Cambridge University Rifle Association,
St. John's College, CB2 1TP.

Cup squads

From Mr M. Varcoe-Cocks Sir: Although no more than 11 players can take the field at

any one time in competitions such as World Cups for football and cricket, preliminary and final squads have to be announced by certain dates. England's cricket selectors had to obtain confirmation that if any of the members of the World Cup team broke down, they could be replaced, even though the tournament does not start until May 14.

Final squads have to be announced by the first week in April — why? I can understand that organisers of a tournament might limit the number of competitors and management for which expenses will be paid, but I cannot understand why a team should not be allowed to pick whatever players they want right up to the start of any game. What is the rationale for this absurd rule?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL VARCOE-COCKS,
5 Brackenbury Road,
W6 0BE.
varcoe@dircon.co.uk

White balls

From Dr Anthony Freeman Sir: Richard Hobson (report, March 2) refers to the fact that the white cricket ball is notorious for swinging and seaming more than the red cricket ball. It also has other advantages. It has been estimated that one in 12 men, though only one in 200 women, have an inherited failure to distinguish between red and green.

I recall one cricketer who could not understand as a batsman why so often he lost sight of the ball which kept low, but when playing on matting wickets in India had no such problems.

I would advocate the use of a white (or yellow) cricket ball in all county and Test matches which would, in my opinion, benefit batsmen, fielders, umpires and spectators alike. Yours etc,
ANTHONY G. FREEMAN,
Meadow Rise, 3 Lakeside,
Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 1QE.

Boxing's

The word "boxing" is a very common one in the world of sports. It is a word that has been used for centuries to describe a combat sport. In the modern era, boxing has become a major sport, with many professional fighters and amateur athletes competing at the highest levels. The sport is known for its physical demands and the skill required to win. It is a sport that has captured the imagination of millions of people around the world. The history of boxing is long and rich, with many legendary fighters who have left their mark on the sport. Today, boxing continues to be a popular sport, with new fighters emerging and old ones returning to the ring. The sport is a testament to the human spirit and the ability to overcome adversity. It is a sport that has brought joy and excitement to many people. The world of boxing is a fascinating one, and it is one that is always changing. There are always new fighters to watch and new stories to be told. The sport is a part of our culture, and it is one that we should all be proud of. It is a sport that has brought us together and made us a more united people. The world of boxing is a world of passion and dedication, and it is one that we should all be proud to be a part of. It is a world that has brought us the greatest fighters of all time, and it is a world that we should all be proud to call our own. The sport of boxing is a sport that has brought us the greatest moments of our lives, and it is a sport that we should all be proud to call our own. It is a sport that has brought us the greatest fighters of all time, and it is a sport that we should all be proud to call our own. The sport of boxing is a sport that has brought us the greatest moments of our lives, and it is a sport that we should all be proud to call our own. It is a sport that has brought us the greatest fighters of all time, and it is a sport that we should all be proud to call our own.

MONDAY MATTERS

LYNNE TRUSS



Looking back, perhaps the word "undisputed" should not have figured so largely in Don King's promotion for the Holyfield-Lewis bout. Because an undisputed world heavyweight championship is what this event turned out precisely not to be.

I personally dispute it, for a start. And I will personally knock down anyone who doesn't. "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them," King boomed at his deplorable post-fight press conference, after the unjust draw had been awarded. "Tonight," he added, "Lennox Lewis had greatness thrust upon him."

Which was again a pretty insensitive category mistake, since Lewis's greatness had been very much of the achieved sort, actually, but then stolen from him in such a blatant manner that regular fight-goers were grey-faced afterwards from the weary, cynical outrage of it.

Up to the moment of the judges' decision, it had been a quite beguiling evening. Grazing on excellent Madison Square Garden salt popcorn, we could engage in harmless stat-spotting through our binoculars, point out Jack Nicholson and Vinnie Jones, and mourn the discovery that Liam Neeson looks, in weak-chinned profile, worryingly similar to Lord Gowrie.

The cauldron of the MSG boiled with more than 21,000 people, in a city full of static electricity, where every doorknob and lift button administers a shock, one doesn't use the expression "buzz" lightly, but buzz there certainly was.

A mobbish English crowd predictably jeered *The Star-Spangled Banner*. They even booed the American celebrities, and chanted that Don King was a "fat bastard", thus proving yet again that you can take the football fan out of England, but not England out of the football fan.

But when the fighters finally snaked a path to the ring at 11.15pm, and the flashbulbs popped, it was magic. The roar, the colour, the occasion. Finally we would see what these guys really were made of. And, incidentally, what enormous shorts! I had no idea.

Lewis said in an interview recently that every time his face appeared on the cover of an American magazine, it had a question mark next to it. Well, his mystery turned out to be both his weakness and his strength in this bout on Saturday night.

The trouble is, he is not a killer-instinct kind of guy. He is a big, thoughtful man who expends mini-

mum effort for optimum effect and apparently knows exactly what he's doing. From the moment the first round bell sounded, Holyfield appeared to be back-peddalling on the spot, inviting Lewis to show what he could do. Perhaps he wanted to be tested to unbearable lengths again, so that he could win (as usual) by bloody warrior courage alone. But Lewis wasn't playing that game, because he knew it didn't work. And for that relief (as King's own tame Swan of Avon used to say), much thanks.

You see, some of us didn't relish the idea of watching Holyfield half-killed in the ring. However, we'd been led to believe that only by half-killing him could Lewis beat him. It was therefore a fantastic feeling to watch Lewis outbox Holyfield in round after round and prove that half-killing an inferior opponent is an option that a smart fighter can ignore.

That's how I saw it, anyway. I saw that while working Holyfield relentlessly with the famous left

jab, and openly dominating him, Lewis was like an angler teasing a fish on his line. Just because he didn't bang the fish on the head with a mallet doesn't mean he didn't catch him. Put it this way: at very few moments did the fish take control.

So euphoria turned to acid outrage when the judges' decisions were announced. Especially when we heard that the first call was so tight (115-113). "How can it be so

close?" was the initial puzzle, which was then swept aside by the announcement that this was the result in favour of Holyfield. The next judge announced in favour of Lewis and the third announced a draw. It still makes me feel sick to think about it.

It wasn't just unbelievable, it was the American variant that comes in two separate words: "Un" and "Believable." One minute the jubilant Lewis had

slung away the question mark for ever, the next it came flying back like a boomerang and knocked him over. So the bout that was supposed to settle everything had settled nothing — except perhaps that you can fool all of the people all of the time. I felt that I had been tricked. I felt that all the punters had been tricked, and especially I felt that Lewis had been taken for an enormous sucker.

In short, I felt (briefly) like torch-

ing the joint. Not a soul I spoke to agreed with the judges. On the sports network, ESPN, the bearded pundit who all week had given Lewis no chance against Holyfield picked up the judgment and tore it up. All the ostensible good work of this unification contest, in proving that boxing was sorting itself out as a legitimate sport, now looked hollow. So I am not happy, the morning after the contest. I am wearing the souvenir T-shirt, but only because it's clean. The one consolation is that Lewis, thank goodness, was so pleased to have proved his mettle to the world that he stood proud and fresh as a daisy at the press conference while Holyfield evinced sweat and pain and distress.

Now that everyone knows Lewis won the bout, they can stop saying he's untested, which must be a huge relief. Even Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward, gave the impression of being unconvinced before, but not now. Now he's just furious. Lewis from now on will

have sympathy as well as respect. But to the judges one can say only three words. Dollard and Airchison. Meanwhile, King brazened it out, of course, because it takes more than a disgraceful outcome to deprive King of his almighty nerve. "What this is, is more excitement," he announced, wilfully ignoring the murderous mood of his listeners. "It ain't over yet, this is so great! What do you do when you got a dispute? You resolve it! So let's do it again! Let's do it again! Hey, judge not that we be not judged!"

But it turns out that boxing stinks after all, Mr King, though not for the reasons that I had supposed. All week I feared the spectacle of violence — physical violence, one on one; each man battering the other's skull. But I hadn't figured the event for a mugging. Which it was. I'm afraid. Truly Un Believable (sic). And I regret to say it, but "Only in America!" sounds worse than ever on Don King's lips right now.



Iron glove: Lewis catches Holyfield with the kind of brutal punching power that ensures from now on he will have the sympathy as well as the respect of the boxing world. Photograph: Kathy Willens

Gussie Fink-Nottle looked at the nickname embroidered on his ancient silk shorts, and sighed. Professional boxing had been a good life and an interesting one.

Little had he expected, for example, that his splendid sporting bouts in the old days against Cuthbert "Mark of the Beast" Larlington-Pugh would bring him to the attention of the New York fighting scene. Gussie made a fist and abserved it. Nineteen men had been flogged by this hand of stone — men with epithets as diverse and terrifying as "Executioner", "Hitman", "Heat", "Surgeon" and "Alarming". Yes, Gussie "After You" Fink-Nottle had carpeted the lot of them. He was in the history books.

The nickname "After You" was the brainwave of his manager, Lindy "Cheese-cake" LaGuardia. After

After you. No, after you

much deliberation, it was conceded that menacing, boastful epithets simply wouldn't work for Fink-Nottle, and that was that. "It's tough, but there ain't no point fightin' it," Cheese-cake said. Thus, Gussie "The Real Deal" Fink-Nottle was considered briefly, only to be discarded. "The Utter Fink" had a promising timbre, but it upset the well-bred Gussie to be associated with a sobriquet so patently untrue.

Cheese-cake then noticed something happening. "After You" was such a startlingly unfamiliar concept in the New York boxing world that Gussie was found to be fatally disarming his opponents by sheer good manners, and first-round knockouts were becoming the norm.

"Waddaya mean, after you?" queried the puzzled boxers, "Demolition" and "Cobra", as they paused to absorb the alien message embroidered on Gussie's waistband. And in the split second that confusion rendered them vulnerable, Fink-Nottle would slip in a sharp, explosive right upper-cut, and retire yet again undefeated to his corner for his trademark Earl Grey with lemon in a bone china cup.

It couldn't last, however. And being so well-bred, Gussie did not mind. In fact, he remembered with a pleasure the night the Fink-Nottle ascendancy looked set to cease. Cheese-cake had bowed to pressure for a proper fight and matched Gussie against his potential nemesis. The

world of boxing was aflame with speculation. Would "After You" meet his match at last?

For Gussie was to meet Tommy "The Zip" Mostel, but a Zip who had cunningly announced a name-change for the contest. Unsurprisingly, Gussie was disappointed — but only because he had spent many weeks looking forward to quipping, "I say, rotten luck, Zip. You seem to have been undone".

For, in fact, he was secretly pleased when he heard the faithful news from Cheese-cake on the phone. "He's calling himself 'Allow Me'! Can you believe that? Tommy 'Allow Me' Mostel! And you know what he's sayin'? He's sayin' you're the real salami, and that modesty, not to men-

tion excellent good manners forbids a prediction of the outcome of this contest. This is one clever Zip, Gussie! There ain't no flies on him!"

And so the world of boxing was turned on its head that night when "After You" and "Allow Me" squared up to each other. The cable networks called the contest "Men Behaving Decorously". On the plus side it irreverently ended a lengthy era of rather silly pre-match bragging, though on the minus, it swung things rather too far in the opposite direction.

Gussie switched on the television, where the rehabilitated Mike "Who Me?" Tyson was preparing to challenge for the world heavyweight title, and declaring he probably wouldn't win it. "No, really! Who, me?" Tyson said, shyly. "Good heavens, have you never heard the expression that there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip?"

No escape from the fans

I DON'T know what boxing fans are usually like, but the discovery that Lennox Lewis's barmy army was a tedious replica of the England Supporters' Club was seriously depressing on Saturday night.

I hadn't come 3,000 miles to hear the theme from *The Great Escape*; I had come 3,000 miles to get away from it. Here was dreary confirmation that travel fails to broaden the mind. The fans claimed to be walking in a Lewis wonderland (oh God), and then they chanted, "Lewis, Lewis" as if he were Shearer, Shearer.

True, the fans settled down during the fight and gave Lewis invaluable support, but it was unsettling after just a week away from

football to find the behaviour transplanted to a venue I assumed had exotic and different traditions. The flags of St George came out; men shouted while standing and pointing. A ten-second silence for Joe di Maggio was not observed by all. And when the various front-row celebrities were announced for our delight, most of them, astonishingly, were booed.

Now this was bizarre. What on earth did this crowd have against Jerry Seinfeld? Are they sore he has given up the show, and refuses to make a further series? Do they prefer Larry Sanders? Or what?

They booed Paul Simon with similar confidence, presumably on account of over-exposure to *Bridge Over*

Troubled Water, but I'm only guessing. Nationality was probably a key thing in their animosity. Also ignorance. Clearly they had never heard of Spike Lee, but harboured unsuspected hatred in their hearts for Donald Trump, Michael J. Fox and John Cusack.

But having said all that, why the enormous cheer for Jack Nicholson? I am as big a fan as anybody of his performance in *Chinatown*, but I don't see it makes him an honorary Brit. All I can say with certainty is that the big cheer for Chris Eubank is not a reflection of his popularity at home. When he drives round Brighton in his silly American jeep, we are so embarrassed that we pretend we haven't noticed.

Boxing's vileness proves a great draw

They were great marks for technical merit, but Lennox Lewis failed to score heavily enough for artistic impression. So Lewis joins the long line of disappointed divas of sport, with Olga Korbut, Katarina Witt and the rest. But that's the way it is in subjectively judged events and like rhythmic gymnasts and dressage riders, Lewis must live with it.

Lewis was very clever and stylish and performed moves with a very high degree of difficulty. The result — a 0-0 draw. I think it was — was not fair. But anyone who is involved with professional boxing and expects fairness could take lessons in cynicism from Little and Fiddling Hood. And that counts out when you have anything to do with Don King.

Boxing, how do you disgust me? Let me count the ways. No, let me not; it would take far too long. The interesting thing about the world heavyweight title bout between Holyfield and Lewis on Saturday

was that it gave us an altogether unexpected and refreshing reason to be disgusted.

For once, the contestants were men of style and substance. Holyfield walks into the arena singing hymns and climbs into the ring with a beatific smile like a Christian about to meet a long-lost lion, a man who magnificently manages to give the impression he is content — eager — to take the adventure God sends him.

Lewis's serenity — how odd to speak of serenity as the attribute of a great fighter, though not so odd if you have read anything of eastern combat forms — seems almost to have something of death about it. Barry Hearn once said of Steve Davis, the snooker champion, that he always knew Davis was going to win "when his eyes went like a corpse".

The contest was conducted with good manners. There were no mouthing and show-boating and posturing characteristics of the lesser British boxing poster. The action,



SIMON BARNES



PROGRAMME NOTES

though constantly ludicrous, was not over-troubling to the squeamish, even at the Gestapo hours of the morning.

Then the truly astonishing result, the match scored as a draw. Which reminds us of the fast bowler story, told of just about every rough-diamond fast bowler that every drew breath: the palpable leg-before turned down, the audible snick to the wicketkeeper rejected and, the third ball, all three stumps uprooted. "Bloody close that time, though, weren't it?"

The thing about such a dodgy, home-town, Don King-favouring decision is that it is simply part of boxing's stock in trade. Boxing showed in

that decision that is not a serious sport, just a spectacle operating for the benefit of King.

If this was a sport, we would all be seriously angry: call in Fiba, call in the IOC, send it all up to the highest court in sport. If sport cannot be fair, then what on earth is the point of it? This gut-feeling of the need for fairness was what prompted Arsenal to offer a replay after they won their FA Cup match against Sheffield United unfairly. It was also why the Football Association and Fiba accepted the offer.

But boxing has no higher court. That is because it is not about sorting out the best from the rest, it is a showbiz spectacle that makes money. In most

sports, a result such as this would have been a day in the death of that sport. But not with boxing. Such decisions are part of the sport's mystique. The attraction of the irredeemably dodgy remains one of boxing's highest draw cards. People are shocked by corruption at the Olympic Games, but they revel in the corruption of boxing. Boxing without corruption would be like a Bloody Mary without the vodka.

Even the fighters agreed that it was all wrong. Amazingly, the MC leapt into the ring at the conclusion and at once told Holyfield that everybody thought it was a clear win for the other guy. That wouldn't happen in this country.

Holyfield managed to be neither defeatist nor defiant. He seemed to accept boxing's inevitable place in the mud at the bottom of the pond, and that he is a boxer and must live with it. The exchange was the most interesting part of a surreal evening of television.

What was most apparent during the bout were the strength of mind of both characters and Lewis's cleverness. Throughout, Lewis managed to do just enough, always playing the percentages. He drove the half-volleys for four, but was mostly content to milk the howling and work the singles.

He never tried to slog across the line for six.

If he had been a cricketer, it would have been a deserved century. If he had been Steve Davis, he would have won the championship, thanks to superior safety play and smarter shot-selection.

But this is boxing. So they didn't let him win. This is because boxing is not actually a sport at all, just a highly remunerative televised combat got up as a sport. Boxing is legal, if expensive, and its vileness is an essential part of its appeal. As Miss Jean Brodie said, for those who like that sort of thing, that is the sort of thing they like. Just don't go around pretending it's sport.

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Can the International Olympic Committee be trusted to prevent drug abuse and corruption wrecking the Games? Tonight *Panorama* (BBC 1, 10pm) finds leading athletes and doctors training their fire on the beleaguered Olympic movement, including Donovan Bailey, the 100m champion, and his disgraced predecessor, Ben Johnson. Tomorrow, Alan Hansen kicks off a series on the new player power, interviewing such commercially attractive like David Beckham, in *Football Millionaires* (BBC 1, 10.30pm).

THIS SPORTING WEEK IN THE TIMES

TOMORROW: The Cheltenham Festival is the highlight of the National Hunt racing season. Alan Lee, racing correspondent, looks forward to three days of top-flight action at Prestbury Park and there is a colours guide to the the feature race of the day.

WEDNESDAY: Corruption and scandal has put the future of the Olympic Games in jeopardy. John Goodbody and Rob Hughes report from Lausanne on a meeting of the International Olympic Committee on which hangs the presidency of Juan Antonio Samaranch.

THURSDAY: Are Manchester United still on course to claim the European Cup after the second leg against Internazionale in Milan?

FRIDAY: Will there be English interest in the semi-final draws for the two European club football competitions?

SATURDAY: Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City prepare to decide the Worthington Cup — the first domestic trophy of the season — at Wembley while England continue their quest for the rugby five nations grand slam against France.

RACING: HENDERSON MAY USE BLINKERS TO SHARPEN FRENCH IMPORT

Makounji gets Arkle go-ahead

By Chris McGrath

IN BLESSING the Cotswolds with a charming spring day of birdsong and sunshine, the gods yesterday offered their favours with a sense of equity that punters would appreciate once the Cheltenham Festival gets underway tomorrow.

For the rain-soaked ground, potentially such an influential factor, now seems likely to dry out sufficiently to establish a fairly level playing field on that taxing climb to the post.

Nicky Henderson walked the course at lunchtime and decided that the going will nonetheless be soft enough tomorrow for Makounji to drop back to two miles for the Guinness Arkle Trophy. Her alternative was the Cathcart Chase, over an additional five furlongs on Thursday.

At the same time, the trainer is insuring against her being outpaced in the frantic early stages. "There is a distinct possibility she will wear blinkers," he said. "My worry going for the shorter race was that they might just get her at it early on. When she ran against Potemkin and Kurakka at Newbury, in particular, she looked a bit lost over the first two or three fences. I hope blinkers might make her a bit sharper."

Makounji already has an edge in weight allowances for both age and gender, but Henderson, who has schooled the French import in blinkers, might just have hit upon the sort of flourish that has already raised the game of no less than 18 Festival winners.

Only one of those successes,



Regency Rake, left, ridden by Maguire, pursue Coulthard, right, on the way to winning the Imperial Cup at Sandown

Barna Boy in the 1997 County Hurdle, has been gained since 1993, but Henderson has been in resurgent form all season. Three more winners on Saturday took his score to 59, and his Festival team embraces not only the high profile of Makounji and Katarino, favourite for the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle, but comparable strength in depth in the handicaps, notably with the Queen Mother's Easter. Ross in the Coral Cup.

"It's a nerve-wracking time, all right," he said. "But they've

all finished their work now, the last ones this morning, and let's hope for a great week. The course is in first-class condition. There's a lot of moisture underneath and it will ride pretty dead on the first day, but four days must make it nearly good ground."

Likewise emboldened by his form for the Festival is Adrian Maguire. Cheltenham has been the focus of atrocious misfortune for the jockey in recent

seasons, but on Saturday he offered timely confirmation of his renewed zest, hauling Regency Rake home by a nostril in a thrilling Sunderland's Imperial Cup at Sandown. Maguire's pugnacious style, loose of rein and compact of body, is a miracle of balance at the best of times, but here he even managed to prevail despite losing his right iron after the last.

Regency Rake, trained by

Arthur Moore, will doubtless be treated as a positive augur not only for Maguire but also for the Irish in general.

In other Festival news yesterday it emerged that Direct Route will be given the chance to erase the memory of a poor run at Ascot last month in Wednesday's Queen Mother Champion Chase. Howard Johnson's stable star broke a blood vessel when finishing fourth to Teeton Mill in the Mitsubishi Shogun Chase.

"He's coming back to himself a bit now," the trainer said.

RICHARD EVANS: Nap: Suranom (3.30 Plumpton)

Jones advertises her talents with four-timer

PIP JONES, Britain's champion woman rider, put a firm grasp on this year's title on Saturday when partnering four winners at the Brecon & Tal-y-bont fixture.

Fearless and blessed with confidence to match at present, Jones is in demand in this sport, but has strangely been overlooked for rides at this week's Cheltenham Festival.

"Nobody wants me," she said yesterday, while driving to the Carmarthen-shire meeting for another five rides.

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

"Perhaps if I'd managed a six-timer the phone would have rung."

Jones won the hunt race on Kerry Soldier Blue (1-5), the confined on Vervel (4-5), the ladies' open on Warren Boy (4-7) and a division of the maiden on Lady Buckland (11-10). Her last ride of the day, in the twelfth race, ended in a fall from Glenville Breeze, but Jones reported herself "sore but okay". Her successes took her score for this

season to 12, and her career total between the flags to 160.

Alison Dade added to her total (267 career wins) when Split Second (4-6) just beat All Weather at the Avon Vale.

Also at this meeting, Mark Rimell warmed up for his ride on Varykiov in Thursday's Foxhunter Chase when partnering Ginny Elliott's Gildorm (4-5) into second place in the 19-runner restricted race. The winner, the Barry

Kendellan-ridden Royal Surprise, started at 20-1 with the bookies, but paid £103 on the tote. "It was his day," said Lambourn trainer John Porter of his 12-year-old, who was doubling his winning score. "He's been placed in good races in the past."

Clive Storey rode a double at the Cumberland Farmers' meeting on Blyth Brook (7-2) and Tinkoff (7-4), but had to be content with third in the men's open on favourite Paster Ron as Pablowmore (3-1) took first spot.

SNOOKER

China king Higgins remains world No 1

FROM PHIL YATES
(IN SHANGHAI)

JOHN HIGGINS celebrated the 15th tournament success of his career in Shanghai last night in the inaugural China International.

Higgins won the final 9-3 against Billy Sneddon, the world No 32, who handed Stephen Hendry a surprising 6-2 defeat in the semi-finals. The combination of those two results guarantees that Higgins retains the world No 1 spot next season.

"It's great news," Higgins said. "I wouldn't have fancied losing top spot anyway, with the lead I've got, but now I can travel down to the British Open next month with one less thing to worry about."

It was not a classic final. Sneddon, running on empty after the most productive but also most draining week of his career, made too many unforced errors to place Higgins under any real pressure.

He trailed 6-2 after the first session and, although the opening two frames of the closing session were shared, Higgins swiftly made breaks of 124 and 42 to secure his first title victory in Asia.

Higgins collected £42,000 to take his tournament earnings for the season to £399,925. Sneddon secured a sum of £21,000, almost double his highest purse from a single event since he turned professional in 1991.

EQUESTRIANISM

Beerbaum takes short cut to memorable win

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN PARIS

LUDDER BEERBAUM, of Germany, the European show-jumping champion, gave the packed Palais d'Omnisports a thrilling display of jumping here yesterday when he and Priamos, the horse on which he gained a team gold medal at the world championships last year, won the World Cup qualifier by 3.67sec.

Beerbaum, the 1992 Olympic champion, took an improbable looking short cut to fence four, which brought him home comfortably ahead of Willi Melliger, of Switzerland, on Calvaro. Xavier Caumont, of France, gave the home crowd a measure of consolation when he took third place on Baladine du Mesnil, his 1997 Seville winner.

John Whitaker, the only Briton to reach the 11-horse jump-off, incurred four faults at the second fence on Virtual Village Heyman, who was having his first important competition of the year, and finished in eighth place. But the performance has lifted Whitaker to fifth in the rankings for the European League of the World Cup and secured his place in the final in Gotherburg next month.

"Heyman's a little rusty after the winter but I'm very pleased with him and we've done what we set out to do," Whitaker said. He has now qualified for every final since the event began in 1979.

Whitaker's younger brother, Michael, who opted to ride Virtual Village Ashley yesterday after Hilton succumbed to an inexplicable loss of form, failed to reach the jump-off after a mistake in the opening round. Coming in too close to the first part of the double at fence five, an over, he paid the penalty with four faults. But he is still in sixth place in the rankings after his third places at Millstreet and Olympia.

Geoff Billington was the most frustrated of the three Britons. He walked around Serge Houtmann's big, 13-fence course before deciding that it was well suited to it's Otto and duly produced a clear round — only to find he had incurred half a time fault for exceeding the 74 seconds allowed over the course.

The jump-off course, which included a flat-out gallop across the arena to the last of the six fences, had been a tame affair until Beerbaum entered the arena. But the German's daring short cut, which was accompanied by roars of approval from the crowd, set a new standard for the five who followed. Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, the world champion and holder of the World Cup, took up the challenge on Gandini Baloubet du Rouet and looked to have the event there for the taking after a lightning fast round — until he just clipped the last fence.

Hirondelles go clear of rivals

NETBALL

AN excellent display of shooting by the England international, Lyn Carpenter, and the England Under-19 player, Louise Moore, helped Hirondelles move clear at the top of the English National Clubs' League table when they beat Topleham 55-43 yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

After New Cambell suffered a surprise 53-48 defeat against Wyvern, the Surrey club

erland through pregnancy and Wendy Hale with an Achilles' heel injury, their prospects appear bleak.

Linden player-coach Colene Thomson said the postponement of her team's fixture was "a blessing in disguise" as players Lisa Driver, Lisa Topless, Sarah Olden and Olivia Murphy were all missing. She said it would probably be rearranged for the end of April.

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AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M Hakkinen 30 points; 2nd D Coulthard 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th R Barrichello 23; 5th H-H Frenzen 22; 6th E Irvine 21; 7th G Fisichella 20; 8th R Schumacher 19; 9th D Hill 18; 10th A Wurz 17; 11th J Villeneuve 16; 12th J Trulli 15; 13th J Herbert 14; 14th P Diniz 13; 15th A Zanardi 12; 16th J Alesi 11; 17th T Takagi 10; 18th P de la Rosa 9; 19th R Zonta 8; 20th O Parris 7.

Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st E Irvine 60 points; 2nd H-H Frenzen 50; 3rd R Schumacher 40; 4th G Fisichella 30; 5th R Barrichello 29; 6th P de la Rosa 28; 7th T Takagi 27; 8th M Schumacher 26. (Only 8 were classified). **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): E Irvine 57 points; H-H Frenzen 57; R Schumacher 57; G Fisichella 57; R Barrichello 57; P de la Rosa 57; T Takagi 57; M Schumacher 56; R Zonta 48; L Badoer 42; A Wurz 28; P Diniz 27; M Gene 25; J Trulli 25; O Parris 23; M Hakkinen 21; A Zanardi 20; D Coulthard 13; J Villeneuve 13. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position** (3 points for each improved place): G de la Rosa 36 points; T Takagi 30; E Irvine 15; R Schumacher 15; H-H Frenzen 9; G Fisichella 9. **Fastest lap time of grand prix** M Schumacher 10 points. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): M Schumacher -10 points; R Barrichello -10. **Did not finish the race** (10 points deducted): R Zonta -10 points; J Trulli -10; O Parris -10; M Hakkinen -10; A Zanardi -10; D Coulthard -10; J Villeneuve -10; D Hill -10; J Alesi -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): J Herbert -10 points. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none. **CONSTRUCTORS:** Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Ferrari 30 points; Jordan 25; Williams 24; Benetton 22; Stewart 22; Arrows 21. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Ferrari -10 points; Stewart -10. **Elimination of a car during the race** (10 points deducted): McLaren -20 points; Prost -20; Sauber -20; Minardi -20; BAR -20; Jordan -10; Williams -10; Benetton -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): Stewart -10 points. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1999 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian GP. **Correctly predicting winning driver:** 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points.

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The column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Australian Grand Prix

DRIVERS			CONSTRUCTORS		
GROUP A			GROUP B		
01 M Hakkinen	41	07 E Irvine	156	12 R Schumacher	131
02 M Schumacher	105	08 O Parris	20	13 H-H Frenzen	128
03 O Hill	5	09 G Fisichella	116	14 A Wurz	35
04 D Coulthard	25	10 J Alesi	11	15 T Takagi	124
05 A Zanardi	22	11 J Herbert	4	16 R Zonta	46
06 J Villeneuve	18			17 M Gene	15

GROUP C			GROUP D		
23 McLaren	20	29 Arrows	21		
24 Ferrari	99	30 BAR	20		
25 Williams	14	31 Stewart	2		
26 Jordan	15	32 Prost	20		
27 Benetton	13	33 Minardi	20		
28 Sauber	20				

* Replaced Mike Salo * Replaced N Fortuna

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TRANSFERS

You can make a total of 12 transfers. Each transfer allows you to change one selection. You can make up to four transfers with each call. For the Brazilian GP call 0640 678 801 (+44 870 901 4240 ex UK) before noon on Thursday April 7 with your 10-digit PIN to hand. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D.

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BY PHONE: check the score and position of your team(s) after the Australian race by calling 0640 622 178 (+44 870 901 4278 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN.

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Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply.

THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. (For readers resident outside the UK and Republic of Ireland the fee is £15.) Post it to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by Wednesday, April 7, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian GP.

GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS

1st 2nd 3rd

GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

1st 2nd 3rd

Team Name (maximum of 16 characters)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Initials Age

Address

Postcode Day tel

Credit Card Payment ☐ Card number:

Expiry date MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

Name on card

Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above

Signature

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House of Lords

Law Report March 15 1999

House of Lords

Cross-examination without evidence

Regina v Bingham

Before Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hutton of Uxbridge and Lord Millett [Speeches March 11]

A defendant who had been called by the Crown to give evidence in support of his defence was liable to cross-examination by the prosecution and had not failed to give evidence under the Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 No 1867 (NI 20).

The House of Lords dismissed appeals by Graham Carlo Bingham and Samuel David Cooke from the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland (Lord Justice Macdonald and Mr Justice Campbell) who on April 23, 1997 had dismissed their appeals against their convictions of murder by Mr Justice Higgins, sitting without a jury at Belfast Crown Court on December 20, 1994.

Article 4 of the 1988 Order provides: "(1) Before any evidence is called for the defence, the court - (a) shall call the accused to give evidence in his own defence; and

(2) If the accused - (a) after being called upon by the court to give evidence in pursuance of this article, refuses to give evidence; or (b) having given evidence, without good cause refuses to answer any question, paragraph (4) applies.

"(4) The court or jury, in determining whether the accused is guilty of the offence charged, may - (a) draw such inferences from the refusal as appear proper; and

(b) treat the accused as having committed the offence." Mr Charles Adair, QC and Mr Jim Allister, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for Bingham; Mr Arthur Harvey, QC and Mr John

F. Larkin, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for Cooke; Mr R. Appleton, QC, Mr G. Kerr, QC and Mr R. K. Weir, all of the Northern Ireland Bar, for the Crown.

LORD LLOYD said that the appellants had been convicted of the murder of Ann Marie Smyth, a young Catholic woman from Armagh, on February 23, 1994 in Cooke's house in Belfast. The motive had been sectarian.

The judge had been satisfied on the prosecution evidence that both appellants were guilty of murder. So he had no need to draw any adverse inferences under article 4 and had not done so. But he had held that he would have done so if necessary. The Court of Appeal had agreed with him.

Counsel for the appellants could not, as they had conceded, argue that the judge had been wrong to rely on an adverse inference for the simple reason that he had not done so. Instead, they submitted that the appellants had not had a fair trial.

The only basis for that submission was that the appellants had been denied the opportunity of being cross-examined by the prosecution. Such an argument had an air of unreality.

At the end of the prosecution case, counsel for each appellant had informed the judge that he would not be calling his client. The judge had called the appellants to the witness box to be sworn and to give evidence in his own defence. The appellants had sworn the witness box and been sworn.

Counsel had then submitted that the appellants were not to be cross-examined. The judge had refused to do so. The appellants had then been called by the court to give evidence in their own defence. The judge had then called the appellants to the witness box to be sworn and to give evidence in his own defence. The appellants had sworn the witness box and been sworn.

Counsel had then submitted that the appellants were not to be cross-examined. The judge had refused to do so. The appellants had then been called by the court to give evidence in their own defence. The judge had then called the appellants to the witness box to be sworn and to give evidence in his own defence. The appellants had sworn the witness box and been sworn.

Trade association cannot sue over passing-off

Chococoisse Union des Fabricants Suisses de Chocolat and Others v Cadbury Ltd
Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Chadwick [Judgment February 25]

A trade association for Swiss-based chocolate manufacturers, whose members included the majority of such manufacturers, and which was formed to protect the reputation of the origin "Swiss" but did not itself sell any chocolate, had no individual locus standi to sue in a passing-off action against a trader seeking to sell goods as Swiss chocolate in the United Kingdom since no legitimate business interest could be identified which the association was entitled to have protected.

Accordingly, since, under Order 15, rule 1(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, a plaintiff could only sue in a representative capacity where it had the same interest as those it sought to represent, the association had no locus standi to sue in a representative capacity on behalf of its members.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Cadbury Ltd, from Mr Justice Laddie (The Times November 25, 1997; [1998] RPC 17), who, in an action brought by the plaintiffs, Chococoisse Union des Fabricants Suisses de Chocolat, Kraft Jacobs Suchard (Schweiz) AG and Chocoladefabriken Lindt und Sprüngli (Schweiz) AG, suing on behalf of themselves and all other persons who manufactured chocolate in Switzerland and exported such chocolate to the United Kingdom, had granted injunctive relief restraining Cadbury from passing off its chocolate, not being Swiss chocolate, by use of the name Swiss Chocolate and by other means as Swiss chocolate, varied by the Court of Appeal in favour of the plaintiffs.

Mr Michael Birch QC, for Cadbury; Mr Simon Turner QC and Mr Colin Burrows for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK, having considered and rejected the

main grounds of Cadbury's appeal on passing off, said, on the question of locus standi, that the ability of Suchard and Lindt to sue in a representative capacity was not in issue.

With regard to Chococoisse, it was suggested that it was itself selling any chocolate at all but it was accepted before the judge that it could bring proceedings on its own behalf in passing off to prevent the reduction of its membership which might be caused if the defendant Swiss chocolate became unrecognisable in England; but that it could not sue in a representative capacity. That was said to follow from *Chococoisse v Producers of Milk* [1991] RPC 251.

The plaintiffs challenged the judge's finding that Chococoisse had standing to sue on its own behalf so as to prevent the reduction of its membership.

The grounds of Cadbury's contention were that Chococoisse had no legitimate business interest, or any sufficient evidence, to prove that it had a reputation within the jurisdiction of the English court or that it had actual or potential members within that jurisdiction or that it had suffered or was likely to suffer any damage by

the court, there was no express power to allow examination and cross-examination in the case of a witness called by the court under article 4 and such a power should not be inferred.

The judge had ruled that a defendant called to give evidence under article 4 did not become the witness of the court and that a defendant who had been sworn in those circumstances and who was not then asked any question by his own counsel could not be cross-examined by the prosecution. Counsel had then said that he had no questions for the appellant.

Counsel had not gone so far as to suggest that the appellants had had a legal right to be cross-examined, but they had argued (1) that an inference could have been drawn against the appellants without their having refused to answer any questions in cross-examination and (2) that they had been denied the opportunity of refuting the allegations against them in cross-examination.

Since the judge had been satisfied beyond reasonable doubt of the appellants' guilt without the need to draw any inference, the judge had not been entitled to do so and did not.

As to (1), putting on one side the fact that counsel had initially argued that the prosecution had no right to cross-examine, the remedy had lain in the appellants' own hands.

If they had wanted the opportunity of refuting the allegations against them in cross-examination, they had had to do so to give evidence in chief. Thus the submission that they had not had a fair trial was utterly without merit.

The Court of Appeal had justly described their conduct as a stratagem to evade the provisions of article 4. His Lordship could well understand why the judge had refused to permit cross-examination and why the Court of Appeal had upheld his ruling. No doubt they had been leaning over backwards to be fair to the appellants, but they had been wrong.

Once the appellants had entered the witness box and been sworn, albeit in the belief that they had been called by the court and not by the defence, they had exposed themselves to cross-examination by the prosecution and their co-accused like any other witness who was tendered for cross-examination.

LORD HOPE, agreeing, said that article 4 had been amended by paragraph 6(13) of Schedule 10 to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, applicable to England and Wales, so as to be in the same terms in all essential respects as section 35 of that Act. Those amendments had, however, not been in force at the date of trial.

There had been no risk of the appellants being cross-examined on the condition in article 4(3)(b) of the 1988 Order of refusal to answer questions so long as the manner as to whether they should be questioned had been in the hands of their own counsel.

The assumption that their counsel had made had been that, so long as they did not put any questions to the appellants, the appellants could not be questioned by anyone. The judge, whose scope for putting questions would be so restricted by the rules of fairness that it could be assumed that none would be put.

If that assumption was right, it could not be said that the appellants had failed to answer any question that was put to them and there would be no basis for drawing any

inferences. The judge had plainly been doing his best to find a sensible answer to what might well have been thought to be an abuse of the procedure in article 4, but he had been wrong on both points.

In the first place, it could not be said that the appellants had failed to give evidence until they had been given the opportunity to answer any questions that might be put to them.

In the second place, there was no rule that prevented a witness who had been sworn but not asked any questions by counsel for the party on whose behalf he had entered the witness box from being questioned by or on behalf of other parties to the trial who could demonstrate a legitimate interest in doing so.

Support for those propositions could be found in *R v Paul* [1992] 2 KB 183, 185 and *Dickson, A Treatise on the Law of Evidence in Scotland* (3rd edn 1987) paragraph 165 citing *Her Majesty's Advocate v Milne* [1964] 5 Tr 229.

The decision of the trial judge in *Milne* had never been questioned, and the passage in *Dickson* continued to form the basis on which these matters were handled in practice in the Scottish courts.

Although *Milne* came from another jurisdiction, it lent further support to the view that, once the appellants had been sworn, Crown counsel had been entitled to cross-examine them despite the fact that no questions had been put to them by their own counsel.

LORD STEYN, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett agreed with Lord Hope and Lord Hope.

Solicitors: Donnelly & Wall, Belfast; B. M. Birnberg & Co for John J. Rice & Co, Newtownards; Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.

LORD JUSTICE Nourse said (at p367): "The defendants had accepted that the consortium was a body corporate duly established under the law of Italy and the judge held that it was entitled, under the English law of conflict, to sue on its own behalf. That entitlement is not in dispute."

His Lordship preferred the Vice-Chancellor's reasoning and was unable to identify any legitimate business interest which the trade association Chococoisse was entitled to sue in a representative capacity on behalf of its members.

However, it was impossible to reach the conclusion that that was permitted on the language of Order 15, rule 1(2) where, as would usually be the case, the trade association either had no interest capable of founding a cause of action or had an interest which was not the same as that of its members.

Chococoisse, accordingly, had no locus to sue in the present proceedings whether in its own right or as a representative.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE delivered a concurring judgment and the Lord Chief Justice agreed with both.

Solicitors: Willoughby & Partners; Bird & Bird.

His Lordship referred to the opposite, although not concluded, view taken on that point by the Vice-Chancellor in the *Scottish Whisky* case: "The trade association, if it sues in a representative capacity, can perhaps maintain such an action but that would be to base the action on the combined causes of action of its members. Such an action would not be based on a cause of action vested in the association itself."

Even if there was an individual right, plainly it was not the same right as that of the Swiss chocolate manufacturers whose Chococoisse sought to represent. That was the view taken by Mr Justice Morritt in *Parma* and affirmed by the Court of Appeal.

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Benefit of adoption to child

In re B (A minor) (Adoption order: Nationality)

Before Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett [Speeches March 11]

On an application for an adoption order the first consideration for the court was the benefit which would accrue to the child throughout its childhood, including in the case of a non-British child, the benefits to the child throughout its childhood from the acquisition of British nationality and right of abode in the United Kingdom.

However, the court would be entitled to refuse the order if there were no such benefits and adoption was being used solely as a means of conferring citizenship prospectively upon an adult.

The House of Lords so held when allowing an appeal by grandparents, but the acquisition of the citizenship by adoption was an essential element in securing the advantage of living with her grandparents and continuing at her school.

In deciding whether to make an adoption order the judge was required to exercise his discretion in accordance with section 6 of the 1976 Act to "have regard to all the circumstances, first consideration being given to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood."

The judge made the adoption but the Court of Appeal discharged it.

The proposition advanced for the Home Secretary, and accepted by the Court of Appeal, was: "The court should ignore benefits which would result solely from [a] change in immigration status when determining whether the child's welfare calls for adoption."

In his Lordship's opinion that was contrary to the express terms of section 6 of the 1976 Act and not supported by authority. His Lordship could not see how, consistently with the language of section 6, the court could not simply have ignored the considerable benefits which would have accrued to B during the remainder of her childhood. That the order would enable her to enjoy those benefits was a fact which the court had to take into account.

No doubt the views of the Home Office on immigration policy were also a view which the court was entitled to take into account although it was not easy to see what weight they could be given.

Parliament had not provided, as it might have done, that the adoption of a non-British child required the Home Secretary's consent. On the contrary, it had provided that the making of an adoption order automatically took the child out of the reach of the Home Secretary's powers of immigration control.

If it appeared to the judge that adoption would confer real benefits upon the child, it was very unlikely that general considerations of maintaining an effective and consistent immigration policy could justify the refusal of an order.

The cases relied upon by the Home Secretary did not go nearly far enough to support the exclusionary rule advanced, but they justified two more modest propositions. First, the purpose of an adoption was to give parental responsibility to a child to the adopters so that the court would not make an adoption order when the adopters did not intend to exercise any parental responsibility but merely wished to assist the child to acquire a right of abode; an "accommodation adoption" as described in *In re A (Adoption)* [1963] 1 WLR 231, 236.

Second, the court would rarely make an adoption order when it made an adoption order when the child during its childhood but give it a right of abode for the rest of its life.

In such a case there were no welfare benefits during childhood to constitute the first consideration, and the court was in effect being asked to use adoption to confer citizenship prospectively upon an adult.

That was a power which Parliament had entrusted to the Home Secretary and the courts were reluctant to trespass upon the area of his authority.

A striking case in that category was *In re K (Adoption order: Nationality)* [1995] Fam 23, where the application for adoption came before the judge eight days before the child's eighteenth birthday.

If a right of abode would be of benefit only when the child became an adult, that benefit would ordinarily have to give way to the public policy of not usurping the Home Secretary's discretion.

It was a curious feature of this case that if the Home Office had been willing to allow B to remain in this country for the two years during which a residence order was in force, the case for an adoption would have been much weaker. It would not have given B any benefits during her childhood which she would not have been able to enjoy anyway.

But on the evidence before the judge the adoption order conferred substantial welfare benefits upon B during the remainder of her childhood and to those the judge rightly gave first consideration.

LORD NICHOLLS, Lord Hope, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett agreed.

Solicitors: Blake Lopham for Chivers Walsh Smith and Irvine & Co, Bradford; Treasury Solicitor.

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Scots Law Report March 15 1999 Outer House

Applying boundary criteria correctly

Shetland Islands Council v Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Before Lord Maclean [Judgment January 11]

Where local government boundaries were being reviewed, the primary criterion for the application of the provisions of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland Act 1973 was the interests of effective and convenient local government, in the sense of serviceable and suitable local government.

The commission could be taken to have applied the criterion correctly if, notwithstanding a failure to refer thereto in their reports to the Secretary of State for Scotland, from an examination of the substance of the reports, supported in their oral evidence, it could be seen that they were addressing the relevant question directly.

LORD MACLEAN so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session when dismissing petitions by Shetland and Orkney Islands Councils for judicial review of recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Mr Matthew Clarke QC and Mr James Wallie for the petitioners; Mr James Drummond Young, QC and Mr Robert McCreadie for the respondents.

LORD MACLEAN said that the commission had carried out a statutory review of electoral arrangements in terms of section 16(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994.

Much of the debate in the present case had turned on what was meant by the words "effective and convenient local government". According to the petitioners, local government was effective if it worked well in the delivery of services and the performing of functions conferred by statute. It was effective if it did those things well and efficiently.

The respondents maintained that the phrase meant serviceable

and suitable local government. The central question was whether the commission gave full effect to that in its reports.

If the commission wished to make proposals for effective changes by way of electoral arrangements, its primary task was to consider what was desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The overall number of councillors in relation to a local government ward, the number and boundaries of the electoral wards, etc and the distribution of any electoral ward.

The correct application of the statutory provisions in a case where the commission wished to make proposals for effective changes was well understood. The commission had first to decide on the appropriate number of councillors required for effective and convenient local government. Then it was their duty to comply so far as was reasonably practicable with the rule set out in Schedule 6 to the 1973 Act and secure, as nearly as might be, electoral equality: see *Enfield London Borough v Local Government Boundary Commission for England* [1997] 3 All ER 747.

The so-called parity rule might yield to special geographical considerations. If it did, then it might be that, in the interests of effective and convenient local government, the proposed number of councillors and electoral wards would have to be increased.

His Lordship considered that in setting a rate of councillors to electors for the Islands Councils at large, the commission had taken account of the special geographical and demographic features of those local government areas in proposing a particular number of council-

lors for each area. They had gone on to consider in considerable detail the question of localities and special geographical considerations.

It was perfectly correct to say that, having set provisional figures for the number of councillors and electoral wards, they had not been persuaded to change their minds. But his Lordship was wholly unable to say that they had their minds closed to the possibility that those numbers might be changed.

The difficulty throughout had been the failure by the commission in the reports to set out the statutory criterion for their making proposals for changes which was what in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

They had been clearly advised of that in the *Shetland* case where Lord Penrose referred to the sole question the commission were required to ask: What was the number of councillors required for the effective and convenient administration of local government in the local authority areas under review? That they had not had provided substantial material for the petitioners to exploit.

The commission had been concerned with electoral equality, but not in the exclusion of the particular features of the local government areas.

In the end, his Lordship had reached the conclusion that the point taken about the terms of the reports had been a failure in expression, not an omission to consider the appropriate statutory criterion.

Law agents: Simpson & Maxwell, WS, Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Benchmark Group, Ernst & Young, Jorden, Superscape VR. Finals: ASW Holdings, Bovis Homes, Burford Holdings, Ernst & Young, Fairway Group, Glaxo, HSBC China Fund, Infobank International Holdings, Laporte, Linden, National Building Materials, NSB Retail Systems, Ruben, Sharpe & Fisher, Spirax-Sarco Engineering, Uglend International Holdings, Wellington Holdings. Economic statistics: none scheduled.

TOMORROW

Interims: Cortec, Dorling Kindersley, Wolsey. Finals: Bodycote International, Brammer, Capital Corporation, Charter, Coca-Cola Beverages, Computacenter, Denver Valley Holdings, Energis, Financial Objects, James Finlay, Headlam Group, Newstar Group, Newey Group, Secure Trust Banking Group, Simon Group, Tarmac, Tudor, Telewest Communications, Arthur Wood & Son. Economic statistics: February public sector finances.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Regent Inns, Sirdar, Smiths Industries. Finals: Birmingham Midshires, Brixton Estate, Clydeport, Devro, DCS Group, Gibbs & Dandy, Hepworth, Inter-care Group, Kier Group, Kingfisher, Orlin, Xaar. Economic statistics: minutes of Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee's March meeting, February labour market report.

THURSDAY

Interims: Town Centre Securities, British Borneo O&G, and British Mohair, Churchill China, Before Johnson, Dialog Corp, Dunedin Lord Inc Growth Investment Trust, Brook Geest, Hanover International, Judgen-Kwik-Fit Holdings, John Laing, Al-Arabi, McAlpine, M&S, Mitras Investment, William Morrison, National Express, Oxford Molecular, FW Thorpe. Economic statistics: February retail sales, February provisional M4 and M42 lending, British Bankers' Association February survey, Building Society Association February building society lending, February final M4, February car output.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK NTC February consumer industries leading indicator.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK



Kingfisher soars ahead of rivals

KINGFISHER: The final results due out on Wednesday will be published simultaneously in London and Paris for the first time, marking the group's growing status as a pan-European retailer. Profits should show a healthy increase with the market looking for between £555 million and £565 million at the pre-tax level compared with £505.5 million last time. Earnings should be up from 27.7p to between 28.5p and 29p.

The upbeat trading statement in January means that the results are unlikely to contain any nasty shocks. Despite the tough trading backdrop for retailers, Kingfisher experienced a reasonable performance over Christmas. Brokers say they are looking for a 5 per cent rise in like-for-like sales, an achievement that many retailers would have liked to emulate.

A strong performance is expected from Darty, its French division, with Woolworths and B&Q also performing strongly. The only setback to sales growth is likely to come from Comet. The payout should grow 1p to 12.5p.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: Brokers are looking for interim pre-tax profits of between £97 million and £100 million when the engineering and aerospace group announces interim results on Wednesday. That would compare with £89.3 million for the corresponding period last year.

Aerospace now accounts for more than half of operating profits, but brokers say the group is considering refocusing its strategy, which would result in a large acquisition in aerospace and the sale of its industrial division to leave it focused on its aerospace and medical activities.

They say that it has already run a slide rule over LucasVarley's aerospace unit with a price tag of about £750 million and parts of British Aerospace's newly acquired Marconi defence division. Smiths's industrial operations are reckoned to be worth about £700 million. The group has already admitted that it is actively looking at a number of "sizeable deals" and has targeted potential candidates in North America.

Brokers will be looking for a strong sales performance in aerospace which should boost operating profits by about 30 per cent. A strong defence order book, and incremental sales to Airbus, should also have offset any im-



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy is expected to deliver a strong set of final results at Kingfisher

provement from the decline in Boeing production rates.

On the medical side, operating profits are expected to be flat and there will be little contribution from newly acquired BCI. Industrial may see signs of a slowdown in European markets, although the North American market is expected to have remained buoyant.

The engineering team at SG Securities has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £98 million. The payout should be about 7.4p compared with 6.75p last time.

TELEWEST: Final results tomorrow will doubtless provide further heavy losses for the blue chip cable provider. The deficit at the pre-tax level is expected to be in a range of £290 million to £325

million compared with £310 million a year earlier. Turnover, on the other hand, is set to rise more than 40 per cent to between £540 million and £560 million compared with £387 million a year earlier. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation are forecast to almost treble to between £140 million and £150 million from £53 million.

The results will include a four-month contribution from General Cable and Birmingham Cable acquired in the second half of last year. Attention will focus on the crucial measures of penetration and churn for Telewest's television and telephony services.

The group's fourth-quarter operating statistics released in February showed cable television pen-

etration up 1.9 percentage points to 23.8 per cent at the 1998 year end and residential telephony penetration up 1.7 points to 30.5 per cent across the combined Telewest/General Cable franchises.

The crucial issue for the industry is the launch of digital cable services which is expected in the last quarter of the year. Digital cable is seen by supporters of the cable sector as the key development that will allow the industry to leverage the high bandwidth available over its networks.

EUROTUNNEL: A first-time profit is forecast when final results are announced today. BT Alex Brown, the broker, is looking for a one-off surplus of £60 million at the pre-tax level compared with a corresponding loss of £611 million. But BT&A emphasises that this is the result of a one-off add-back of £270 million interest accrued during the restructuring. The group is expected to plunge back into the red during 1999 and beyond.

Volumes were helped in 1998 by the recovery in business after the Channel Tunnel fire, which restricted business the previous year. It was also helped by strong underlying demand and the fall-out from the merger of rivals P&O and Stena.

LAPORTE: The chemical group's shares have been driven higher ahead of today's final results by speculative buying. The figures themselves are unlikely to impress, but the group continues to be tipped as a takeover target after a period of consolidation within the chemical sector.

Goldman Sachs is forecasting pre-tax profits virtually unchanged at £132 million with earnings per share, declining from 49.5p to 48.7p. Despite the acquisition of Inspec in August, Laporte will have found the going difficult. A trading update in December indicated that continuing business during the second half was comparable with 1997.

Sales volumes had continued to grow and margins had been maintained despite the poor performance of the electronics division. Speciality organics will have enjoyed a reasonable performance along with formulated products. But pigments and additives will have been flat.

The payout should be up from 25.75p to 26.45p.

CHARTER: A downturn in profits and a maintained dividend is about the best that shareholders can expect when the group unveils final results tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are likely to come in at £82.5 million, down from £94.1 million last time, with earnings per share down from 61p to 55p.

Last year was a tough one for manufacturers and 1999 shows further signs of deterioration with margins coming under pressure. Both welding and specialist engineering will have experienced a further decline. Brokers are worried that profits from the welding division could be sharply lower because of the scale of operational gearing in the industry. The payout should be held at 31.5p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Key time for rates

IT IS a make-or-break week as far as the immediate outlook for UK interest rates is concerned with a raft of important economic data due to be published plus the minutes of the last Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

On Wednesday the labour market data will provide a second look at the newly restored average earnings data, with analysts hoping for a rapid decline in the pace of wage growth. The December rolling average is expected to show wage growth at 4.3 per cent compared with 4.5 per cent in November. The predicted rise in unemployment has not yet arrived, but the City expects the downward momentum to have finally ended with the claimant count measure of unemployment remaining unchanged in February.

The retail sales data on Thursday will provide evidence of whether the slight improvement in sales has continued into February. Early evidence has suggested that, while sales were slow in February, they were not a disaster. Analysts expect a 0.5 per cent decline in the monthly measure of sales volumes but the annual rate will climb from 1.2 per cent to 1.6 per cent as the overall performance comes in ahead of the same month last year.

On Tuesday the February public sector net cash requirement figures are published. Although the Treasury marginally upgraded its forecast of a full-year surplus to £5.3 billion, analysts still believe that Gordon Brown may have been a little too conservative in his calculations. End-of-year departmental spending budgets make the exact figure difficult to predict but the City expects a surplus of about £2.5 billion ahead of £2.25 billion in the same month last year. On Wednesday the Debt Management Office is due to publish its estimates of funding requirements. It has indicated that it will sell about £17.3 billion worth of gilts, although net new sales are expected to total about £2.5 billion, which analysts regard as a comfortable level.

In the US the main focus will be the consumer prices data on Thursday and the industrial production figures on Tuesday as analysts assess whether a rate rise remains a real possibility. Industrial production is forecast to rise a respectable 0.3 per cent compared with a flat figure the previous month. The annual rate of consumer price inflation is expected to rise marginally to 1.7 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy BTR Siehe, West 175, Kingfisher.
The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Inn Business, Saatchi & Saatchi, Benchmark Group, Salitre.
Sunday Express: Buy Polypipe, Geest, WSP, Granada.
The Mail on Sunday: Buy Abbey National, Corporate Services, Fibernet, Waterhall Group.

Expansion plans omit Heathrow

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is ready to surrender Heathrow's status as the world's busiest international airport in favour of expanding airports elsewhere.

With Frankfurt airport forecast to take over the top position, held by Heathrow for more than 30 years, ministers are preparing a marked change of strategy to reduce dependence on Britain's premier airport. Aviation officials have been instructed to abandon the "chase the supremacy" strategy in favour of plans for expanding other airports near London and throughout Britain.

As a result, officials have been told to make no assumption that Heathrow will win approval for Terminal Five, which would increase the airport's capacity from 60 million passengers to more than 80 million. Frankfurt is expected to overtake Heathrow by about 2005. The German airport will then become the world's biggest international airport, although trailing behind several US airports which have heavy domestic traffic.

The Government's attempts to scale down future growth at Heathrow comes at a critical time for the airport. A decision on whether to build a new ter-



Reid wants better rail links

minial will not be made for at least two years, after the completion on Wednesday of Britain's longest public inquiry, which has lasted almost four years. By the time that the inquiry inspector, Roy Vandermeer, publishes his report in 2001, ministers will have prepared their own detailed blueprint for using alternatives to Heathrow. A senior Whitehall official said: "We can't just sit and wait for a decision on Terminal Five, and we have to

look seriously at the way we use other airports and, indeed, whether Heathrow is being used as efficiently as possible."

Among alternatives that ministers will explore during their two-year study of airports in the South East of England is the extension of the Eurostar train services to Heathrow, serving Paris and Brussels. The move, already being examined by Eurostar's operators, would potentially remove thousands of flights from Heathrow's congested timetable. Flights between Heathrow and the two cities comprise about 10 per cent of the 440,000 flights a year.

John Reid, the Transport Minister, also wants better rail links between Heathrow and nearby airports - Gatwick, Luton and Stansted - to enable them to take on some of the 20 million passengers who use Heathrow only to change planes. "We must face up to the facts that we are a small country with a huge demand for air transport. We have to ask whether we can continue to be a modern-day staging post for the whole world. It is no good being the biggest if delays means we are no longer the best," said the Whitehall official.

Market too tough on hotels sector

BY DOMINIC WALSH

BRITAIN's hotels have been unjustifiably savaged by the stock market, according to a report by London Economics, to be published tomorrow.

The report, commissioned by the British Hospitality Association, says that between mid-1996 and the end of 1998, hotel stocks fell 40 per cent relative to the market. Of the current decline, it says: "We find it hard to reconcile the steep collapse in hotel share prices with the probable mild downturn in profit growth."

The report, *The Commercial Prospects of the UK Hotel Industry*, argues that the collapse in share prices in the early 90s was "a rational response to falling turnover and falling profits" in the face of sinking GDP, a recession in the US and the Gulf War. But London Economics concludes that hotel profits are now much less sensitive to GDP, with costs now much lower as a percentage of turnover and more responsive to falls in revenue. It points out that since 1992, profits of the big hotel operators have risen, in real terms, by more than 10 per cent per annum.

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Microsoft shake-up to change strategy

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT, the maker of the Windows software that updates most of the world's personal computers, will this week announce a broad reorganisation, splitting the company into four groups.

The changes, designed by Steve Ballmer, the president and number two to Bill Gates, will seek to direct Microsoft towards the needs of various customer groups rather than the key software products.

The reorganisation comes after Microsoft said it would suffer a \$400 million revenue

shortfall for the first quarter of 1999, caused by problems with the Office software program. Delays in development of the next generation of the program have forced the company to issue coupons that allow consumers to update the software when the new version arrives.

The four branches of Microsoft expected to emerge include a consumer division, a corporate sales section, a group directed at software developers, and a division to develop new programs and update existing software products.

Union backing for Bradford & Bingley

BY SUSAN EMMETT

JOHN MONKS, General Secretary of the TUC, will today voice his support for Bradford & Bingley's campaign to retain mutual status in a drive to protect jobs at the building society.

The union leader is meeting Christopher Rodrigues, the society's chief executive, to discuss his concern that a significant number of jobs would be lost if the society's members vote for conversion next month.

Bradford & Bingley's fight to retain mutual status begins in earnest this week as members receive their voting forms.

Bradford & Bingley said it did not know how many jobs were potentially at risk, although the society made it clear that it would not be able to maintain its current branch network. It said there would also be cutbacks to its independent financial advice network.

Mr Rodrigues said: "John Monk's support for the mutual cause is welcome. He clearly recognises that the future of our staff and our members is best served by Bradford & Bingley remaining a building society."

THE FACTS

Turnover: £1.62 billion.
Pre-tax profit: £574.8 million.
Market cap: £5.9 billion.
Employees: 3,650.
Overview: Operates the electricity transmission network and balances power supply with demand. The Grid enables the trading of power. Operates overseas in electricity transmission and in building telecoms networks. Has a 49 per cent stake in Energis.

THE BOARD

David Jeffries has been chairman of the Grid since its formation at the privatisation of the electricity industry in 1990. In July he will make way for James Ross, the chairman of Littlewoods and the former chief executive of Cable & Wireless. Mr Jeffries is also the chairman of Viridian, the holding company of Northern Ireland Electricity.

David Jones, the chief executive, has spent his career in electricity, joining the Grid in 1994 from South Wales Electricity, where he was chief executive. Previously he was in management at South Western and Midlands electricity boards.

Stephen Box, the finance director, joined the Grid two years ago from Coopers & Lybrand, where he was a partner specialising in corporate finance.

Wob Gerritsen, the business development director, joined from Costain, where he was chairman of engineering and construction, in 1995.

Roger Urwin, the managing director of transmission, was chief executive of London Electricity until 1995 when he moved to the Grid. He is a non-executive director of Foreign and Colonial Special Utilities Investment Trust and Total Oil Marine.

Non-executive directors include: Bob Fairclough, who was chief operating officer at BTR until 1995; John Grant, chief executive of Ascof and a former finance director of Lucas Industries; Richard Reynolds, a former managing director of GPT and current chairman of the Eastern European Trade Council; and Malcolm Wilkerson, chief executive at Standard Chartered.

LAST YEAR was the year the National Grid came into its own. The Grid runs the electricity transmission network and, by that definition, is the very dull of what are perceived as pretty dull utilities. However, the company demonstrated a spark of life beyond its pylons and substations last summer when its name was linked surprisingly with the National Air Traffic Services (Nats). The Government wants to sell a majority share of Nats, and after it asked the Grid to formalise its verbal interest in a letter, the cat leapt out of the bag.

Later — in December — the Grid made its much-awaited swoop into the US market by buying the New England Electricity System (Nees) for £2.7 billion. Unlike PacificCorp — Scottish Power's prey — Nees was widely regarded as well run, so the move raised the question of what the UK company could get out of its US purchase. It hopes for promising changes to the regulatory system and the chance to use expertise gained in the UK's competitive market to its advantage in the deregulating region of New England.

Last month there was the planned £386 million acquisition of Eastern Utilities Associates, bolstering the Grid's new presence in New England.

Both deals will take about a year to crawl through the mass of regulatory considerations and the company has ruled out further forays into the US in the meantime.

In between these two buying extravaganzas, Grid filled its piggy bank by raising £1.2 billion from the sale of Energis shares. Energis was the Grid's highly successful telecoms division, in which it kept a big majority stake after floating the business in late 1997. Having built up the business, the Grid had long said that it wanted to reduce its interest — it is now left with 49 per cent — and to leave its future to telecoms marketing experts. The soaring value of telecoms stocks provided the opportunity.

Running beside the pioneering stuff was continuation of the Grid's strategy of pushing into developing countries to work on nascent power and network projects. A key move was its £200 million involvement in a project to expand Brazil's telecoms network. The timing was not great: it came on the day Brazil devalued its currency by 12 per cent.

David Jones, chief executive, wants the Grid to have a straight three-way split for its income. "Within ten years we want to have a third of revenues from the UK and Europe, a third from the developed world, such as the US, and a third from the emerging world," he said.

The huge US deals already move the Grid towards getting a third of its overall sales from overseas ventures. Pushing for a global position is, of course, not unusual for any company. The Grid, however, is in the fortunate position of having its home market relatively secure, except for regulatory tightening.

The Grid's system is a natural monopoly and it is unlikely that the regulator or the Government would want to dismantle the network or jive off its functions just yet — especially as they struggle to introduce new trading arrangements.

Chiefly, as it stretches its wings, events over the past few months have made the Grid into a different beast from the



David Jones, top left, chief executive of National Grid, whose pylons tower over England and Wales. The Grid sponsors England's cricket umpires, exemplified by the now retired Dickie Bird, right, and an umpire's judgment is also called for at the control centre to match electricity supply to demand

one that first saw the light of day three years ago, when the system was severed from the 12 regional electricity companies and put to the market in its own right.

The Grid had an inauspicious start. It was quickly dubbed National Greed for its fat-cat controversy — the last in a series of utility scandals — when four directors gained £1.5 million profits from share

options on the business's flotation. Even John Major, then Prime Minister, had not been able to stop the bonanza. Months before the flotation, he asked the Grid directors to forgo some of their benefits. He acted as Labour made political capital from utility fat-cats in the run-up to the election.

The Grid went on to compound this reputation by setting up a train of further controversies. It even received a rebuke over pay from Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, who rarely left the more arcane realms of price formulae and capital investment in his public comments.

The Grid's flotation was accompanied by another controversy — the lights nearly went out.

The company thrust itself into the media limelight soon after taking its infant commercial steps. It had warned regional electricity companies that, because of a shortage of fuel caused by contraction in gas supplies, there could be sporadic power cuts if demand peaked. It was hardly a ringing endorsement of electricity privatisation. Dozens of journalists packed the Grid's control centre in Wokingham to witness the meltdown. Nothing happened. At the peak 5pm national dash for the kettle on the dreadful day, demand was comfortably matched by supply. Some accused the Grid of scaremongering or, at least, profile-building.

There is little doubt, though, that the Grid's management of the electricity network is a complex task. Electricity cannot be stored, so calculating supply and demand is vital. The Grid must also monitor output of individual power stations, the amount of power coming into the English and Welsh power from France and from the Scottish generators, and the performance of the wires.

This is all done from the Wokingham centre, where the nation's power is tracked in minute detail. Next to a giant map of the UK's electricity network are two clocks. One has real time, the other electronic time. They should both have exactly the same time, although the electronic one can get slightly out of sync if the rate at which power moves in and out of the system deviates

from the optimum. The variance between the times would be slight, but the Grid has a statutory duty to stay within the narrowest parameters in regulating the power flow.

Outside the BBC and ITV, the people knowing most about effects of television programmes on behaviour probably work for the Grid. Its forecasters know the storylines of soaps weeks ahead and receive up to a year's notice of a major drama production. This is because of the boiling of kettles and opening of the fridge to get a beer at half-time in a big match or in a gripping programme's intervals have a huge effect on power demand.

The Grid is also in four-hourly contact with the Meteorological Office to find out how cold it will be (for heating) or alternatively how hot (for air-conditioning) and how cloudy (for lights).

Although all this is done at Wokingham, the Grid has an alternative 'secret' command centre nearby in case of a terrorist attack on its primary centre. Managing networks with all these variables has its advantages. The Grid is the only company in the world that co-ordinates a national supply system. It has done this as the industry has been both privatised and then pushed into competition. Such a skill is internationally marketable. It is also a strong domestic talent.

The Grid may find its role in matching supply to demand being reduced by an impending overhaul of electricity trading. However, there is nothing to stop it making a convincing case to run a rail network or the part of the gas market that matches unexpected shortfalls with supply. Such steps will make the Grid's interest in controlling air traffic not so surprising after all.

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هكمان الأول

Fall in base rates has not finished yet

Interest rates are near their trough — if you believe the forecasts implicit in the money market yield curve. But I wouldn't, if I were you. Experience shows that the money markets lack imagination. They tell you how interest rates are likely to behave if things continue as they are now. But as we all know, they generally don't.

The money markets' current view is partly driven by the growing conviction that American interest rates are going to rise. That is what would happen afterwards. The markets tend to think in terms of conventional interest rate cycles. Once rates start moving in one direction they continue for several further moves, perhaps.

But we no longer live in a conventional world. Those of us who have expected a stock market collapse to slow US consumer spending have so far been wrong — but we can still be proved right this year. If the market does not come to its senses naturally, then a US

rate rise may do the job. Yet after a significant drop in asset prices, the Fed would surely not want to go on raising rates. It might even be forced to cut them again soon afterwards — not least because of the international ramifications.

There is a widespread view that the international financial crisis has run its course. But two related problems are bubbling beneath the surface. The penny seems finally to have dropped in Tokyo that if Japan is to find a way out of the present deflationary trap it will have to let the yen go. Meanwhile, there have been more hints from China that it may devalue. Her current account surplus suggests that she does not need to, but look instead at the domestic situation. It is a different story. Growth has slowed sharply and prices in the shops are falling at 3 per cent a year. Rising unemployment is

contributing to increasing social unrest.

Critics say that China should try to boost growth by instituting reforms that will stimulate both corporate and consumer spending. But political considerations dictate that the authorities have to go easy on the pace of reform, while the entrenchment of deflationary psychology makes stimulating demand far from easy.

The markets should give due weight to the chances that a Chinese devaluation this year will set off another round of currency adjustments. If that happens, as well as unsettling financial markets, weaker Asian currencies would intensify disinflationary pressures in the West and thereby justify lower interest rates.

Over the past week, of course, the British money markets have focused on the implications of the

Budget. A pity, then, that (as so often before) first impressions were misleading. On hearing the Budget speech, many a teenage scribbler rushed off to the television studios to denounce the big Budget "giveaway". They should have known better than to read the Budget's message from the Chancellor's speech in Parliament.

The true message only reveals itself after the practice of the black arts involved in poring over the Budget document (still known in the trade as the Red Book, even though it is white). For all Chancellors face two ways — to the voters in the country, and to the financial markets across the world. They must simultaneously be Santa to one group and Scrooge to the other.

As the observers in the markets can normally see through this pretence, but this year things were made worse for them by the Chancellor's brilliant presentation, and by his practice of rolling up the tax reductions over three years. His much-trumpeted net tax cut of £6bn was in fact only £1bn in the coming year. More importantly, despite the cuts last week, taxes are in fact set to rise as a result of the measures announced in the previous two Budgets but yet to take full effect.

There is a significant chance, though, that a recession will blow Gordon Brown's plans off course. Given the international situation and the risk that rising unemployment here at home will dent consumer confidence, I think that the Treasury's forecast of 1 per cent growth is too high (although it is perfectly plausible).

This is where the news gets even better. Britain's fiscal position is now so strong that it could withstand a recession. Of course, borrowing levels would rise sharply, but look at the starting point. This year the Budget deficit is set to be only 0.3 per cent of GDP and the accumulated government debt 46.6 per cent. This compares with the Maastricht Treaty criteria of 3 per cent and 60 per cent. The only other large country in a comparably

healthy position is the United States.

And this brings me to the last reason for expecting interest rates to carry on falling. According to most assessments, the pound is uncompetitive at these levels and should be falling. Yet it is not showing any signs of weakness. Indeed, against the currencies now subsumed in the euro, it is just about in the middle of its old ERM bands. I have a suspicion that, partly because our fiscal position is so robust, sterling may even strengthen, thereby intensifying disinflationary forces — and increasing the pressure for further base rate cuts.

You'll be wanting numbers. I am not changing my view because of a broadly neutral Budget and temporary signs of recovery in the world economy. The figure I have pencilled in for the end of the year is still 4 per cent. Yes, I know that's a good deal lower than the markets are expecting. Just reflect on what they were expecting last year.

roger.bootle@capitaleconomics.com



ROGER BOOTLE
Budget. A pity, then, that (as so often before) first impressions were misleading.

French close ranks against bank bidders

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A CAMPAIGN is under way in the French business community to prevent one of the country's large banks falling into foreign hands.

The hostile takeover bid launched last week by Banque Nationale de Paris for two of its rivals, Société Générale and Paribas, has thrown the sector into turmoil and prompted suggestions that an overseas bank may use the bid as an opportunity to muscle into the hitherto closed French banking sector.

Signs of the French closing ranks against outside bidders came as the Finance Ministry yesterday published a decree launching the privatisation of another bank, the state-owned Crédit Lyonnais.

BNP's move would create the world's largest bank in terms of assets, and one of the biggest in terms of market capitalisation. The predator and its prey are preparing for a long battle if the Conseil des Marchés Financiers, the finan-

cial markets regulator, rules tomorrow that BNP's bid is acceptable.

Although shares in BNP closed 3.6 per cent down at 680 on Friday, international investors have given broad, if prudent, support to the predatory bid on Société Générale and Paribas, which were themselves in merger talks.

This weekend Paribas denied reports that about 100 of its senior managers were opposed to the proposed link-up with Société Générale, although it was forced to admit that they had met last week.

Antoine Jeancourt-Callignat, chairman of AGF, the insurance group with significant stakes in the three banks, said: "The shareholders will decide. They are going to have to evaluate the interests of both projects." BNP is offering 15 shares for seven Société Générale shares and 11 for eight Paribas shares.

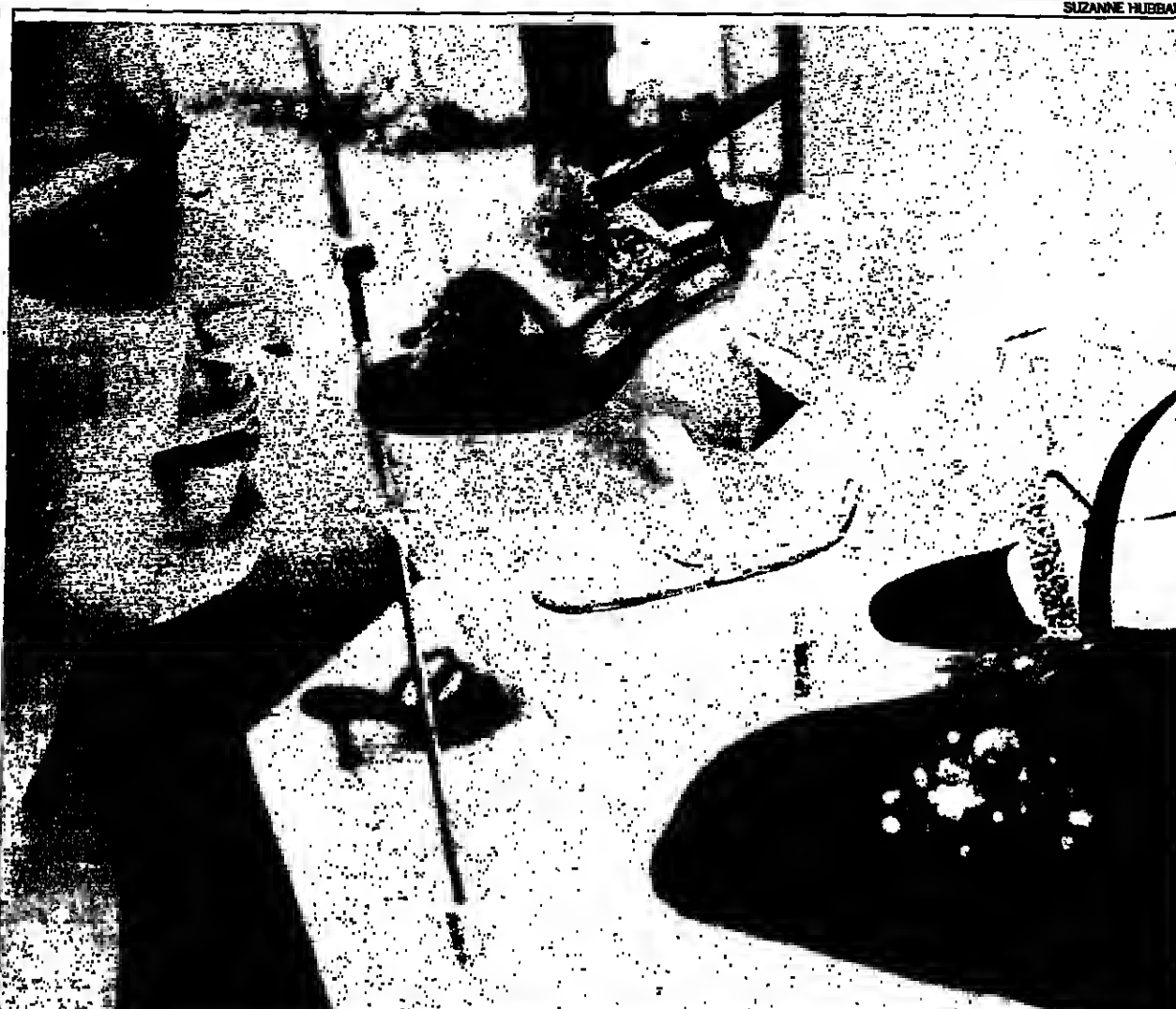
But with the bid, there is a risk of speculation in shares in

all three institutions, foreign banks are waiting for the chance to pounce on a hitherto closed French market. There have been reports that Germany's Dresdner Bank may bid for BNP.

But the French Finance Ministry, backed by senior figures in the Paris business community, is determined to prevent foreign institutions acquiring any of France's big banks. Both Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, and Jean-Claude Trichet, the Governor of the Bank of France, say they will defend the French banking sector.

The same determination was clear in the decree starting the Crédit Lyonnais privatisation yesterday.

A hard core of shareholders will be given the chance to purchase just less than a third of the bank, the Government said. Each member of the "group of partners" will be able to acquire a stake of between 1 per cent and 10 per cent.



Fashion footwear: Church & Co, the gentlemen's bootmaker, is aiming to attract buyers of designer shoes with the launch of eJones. The store, near Harrods in Brompton Road, West London, is being run through the Jones the Bootmaker division of Church & Co. The company, which hopes to reclaim some of the territory lost to clothes retailers, is thought to be a target for Bernard Arnault, of LVMH.

Eastern puts out gas rival challenge

Eastern Group, the power generator and distributor owned by Texas Utilities, is claiming to have emerged as the largest competitor to Centrica, which trades as British Gas, in the scramble for the deregulated gas market.

More than one million customers have signed up to Eastern for their domestic gas supplies, and more than 300,000 have joined the company's existing electricity customer base. Eastern announced full-year operating profits 12 per cent higher at £450.2 million.

Greenbury effect
Companies are imposing increasingly demanding performance conditions on executive share option incentive schemes as a result of the Greenbury Committee's report, according to a new survey. Long-term incentive plans adopted last year had higher potential awards than in earlier years, according to New Bridge Street Consultants, the management consultant.

Bae in Spanish bid
British Aerospace is believed to be in talks to buy Casa of Spain, the state-owned aerospace company. The company is to be sold off by the Government in the summer. Bae, which is also buying the GEC's Marconi defence division, has offered to buy all of Casa.

Miners' strike off
RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal producer, has announced that a threatened strike by mineworkers in Yorkshire and the Midlands has been called off.

Weekend Money website: <http://www.times-money.co.uk>

Rio Tinto chief hits back

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

THE head of Rio Tinto, the world's biggest mining company, has rejected accusations that poor management in the minerals industry was to blame for the plunge in commodity prices.

Leon Davis, chief executive, said the huge oversupply that drove down the price of most metals was the result of decisions made by mining companies three or more years ago, when "the world was a different place". Mr Davis said that most other industries were also guilty of fostering excess capacity at various times.

"The mining industry is unfairly criticised," he said. "The supply decisions were made a fair time ago and people just got their timing wrong. That happens."

The industry has come under increasing attack for failing to arrest the slide in the price of its products. Analysts have been particularly critical of the decision of many companies to offset low prices by increasing volumes.

Shell in search of profits with principles

By CARL MORGAN

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL, the oil company, yesterday said that it sacked some 60 contractors last year for failing to comply with its business principles, which include prohibitions against bribery and corruption, and its health and safety policies.

The company also indicated that a

number of employees had been dismissed for corruption, although fewer than 23 who lost their jobs in 1997. The revelations came as Shell launched a \$25 million (£15 million) media campaign intended to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development — balancing profits with care for the environment and the community.

The campaign, entitled Profits and

Principles, includes mailshots to opinion-formers worldwide, an Internet discussion forum and \$16 million in press advertising. One of the more arresting images consists of a tiny frog caught in a Venus fly trap. Next to it is the Shell emblem and the message: protect endangered species or become one?

Mark Wade, who is organising the campaign at Shell said: "The Brent

Spar was one of the best things that happened to us. We were shocked by the vehemence of the reaction and we asked ourselves how could we get so out of touch."

Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, said: "While much of our attention this year is going into making the business more profitable, this is not an excuse to neglect our longer-term responsibilities."

Shell commissioned a MORI survey of attitudes to the company worldwide, which revealed 50 per cent were positive, 40 per cent indifferent and 10 per cent highly critical.

Mr Wade noted that the company's share price "hardly wobbled" during the Brent Spar and Nigeria controversies. "But it hurt us emotionally — we were seen as lacking the values we thought we held."

MAM critical of DSS proposal

MERRILL Lynch Mercury Asset Management (MAM), the pension fund manager, has clashed with the Department of Social Security over plans to insert a clause setting out trustees' approach to ethical investment (Martin Waller writes).

A DSS consultation document suggests pension fund trustees should provide a statement of investment principles, saying whether they take into account considerations other than financial ones, such as a refusal to invest in arms or tobacco. But John Parsloe, a managing director at MAM, has written to the DSS saying that such a proposal is "objectionable", because the requirement for a negative statement implies trustees are in some way not conforming to best investment practice. "This is open to interpretation as an insidious attempt by government to influence trustees," he says.

He adds that decisions on ethical investment are entirely a matter for the client and not the fund manager.

De La Rue to cut costs

DE LA RUE, the maker of coin-counting machines, is expected to announce huge cost-cutting measures, including job losses, when it unveils the results of a strategic review tomorrow (Paul Armstrong writes).

The review, which has focused on the company's cash

systems division, is being viewed as an attempt by De La Rue to rebuild its tarnished reputation among analysts and fund managers.

But analysts are questioning whether any amount of restructuring will generate acceptable returns.



THE TIMES & DILLONS FORUM

Times readers are invited to a rare evening with John le Carré, one of Britain's best-selling novelists, on Sunday, March 28, at 7pm.

Introduced by the Editor of The Times, Peter Stothard, the internationally acclaimed author will talk about his life and work, and read from his latest novel *Single & Single*. If you would like to ask John le Carré a question, please e-mail johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk. For more details visit The Times/le Carré website at www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html.

The event, which forms part of The Word literary festival, will be held at the LSE Peacock theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, London WC1. Tickets cost £9 and can be booked on 0171-863 8222

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Ford

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 14 January, 1999 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 15 March, 1999.

Gross Distribution per unit	2,300 Cents
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax	0,345 Cents
	1,955 Cents
Converted at \$1.62	\$0.01206790

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY: National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 15 March, 1999

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.67	2.49
Austria Sch	21.59	19.93
Belgium Fr	63.57	58.61
Canada \$	2.609	2.421
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9102	0.8387
Danmark Kr	11.71	10.82
Egypt	5.78	5.15
Finland Mk	9.45	8.70
France Fr	10.29	9.51
Germany Dm	3.090	2.848
Greece Dr	507	468
Hong Kong \$	13.48	12.29
Ireland £	1.22	1.09
Indonesia	1858	1358
Ireland P	1.233	1.143
Israel Sh	6.92	6.26
Italy Lira	2074	2837
Japan Yen	210.42	192.89
Malta	0.677	0.618
Netherlands Gld	3.489	3.194
New Zealand \$	3.20	2.96
Norway Kr	13.33	12.39
Portugal Esc	312.63	289.64
Spain Ptas	166.64	153.64
Sweden Kr	14.06	12.96
Switzerland Fr	2.547	2.329
Turkey Lira	607.329	568.664
USA \$	1.741	1.598

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.



PROFILE 44
Behind the
scenes at
National Grid

BUSINESS

INTEREST 45
Base rates fall
not over, says
Roger Bootle



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MARCH 15 1999

FK



The Lord Mayor has asked the Corporation of London to examine ways of cutting the number of roadworks in the City, where Bishopsgate was dug up 333 times over a three-year period

Utilities in London face road-up fine

ENGINEERS and legal experts at the Corporation of London will meet tomorrow to consider measures to combat the long-running traffic chaos in the City caused by endless roadworks carried out by utilities (Martin Waller writes).

The meeting has been brought forward by the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene of Portsoken, who is keen to see the Corporation given new powers to co-ordinate such roadworks and keep disruption to a minimum.

This week a Private Member's Bill from Christopher Fraser, Conservative MP for Mid-Dorset and North Poole, which would give local authorities power to fine utilities who over-run time limits, again goes before the House of Commons. Last Friday the Bill failed to gain a second reading.

But Lord Levene has asked the Corporation to look at other ways of cutting the number of holes dug in the City's roads. The record is thought to be held by Bishopsgate, which, over a three-year period, was dug up 333 times.

Rover offered £200m in aid for productivity

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR
AND CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Government will tomorrow offer BMW, the German carmaker, an unprecedented £200 million aid-for-productivity deal to save Rover's troubled Longbridge plant and up to 10,000 jobs.

Amid rising optimism that the plant's long-term survival can be safeguarded, Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, is preparing to tell the company's top officials that substantial state aid is available — but that it must be matched by a big investment by BMW (up to £1 billion) and that government help will be tied to increased efficiency.

Mr Byers will propose that while some of the £200 million government money will be paid up front, the rest will be

RENAULT MAY REVERSE INTO

RENAULT, the French car manufacturer, is to purchase a 40 per cent stake in Nissan for about £2.6 billion this week, according to *Asahi Shinbun*, the leading Japanese financial newspaper (Caroline Merrell writes).

A deal with the troubled Japanese carmaker would push Renault into the big league. It would become the fourth-biggest car company in terms of output, ahead of Volkswagen and DaimlerChrysler. Renault is number ten worldwide in terms of car output, well behind Nissan, which is ranked sixth. But Nissan's debts and losses, coupled with its

shrinking market capitalisation, gave Renault a chance to forge a global alliance in which it would not be a junior partner.

"A company like Honda is worth three or four times Renault. The likelihood of a balanced alliance would be slim. We need someone who's looking for a deal," said Louis Schweitzer, Renault's chairman, last week. A key issue is Nissan's debt load — \$17 billion (£10 billion) at the end of 1998. The money from Renault would be used to reduce debt and finance a restructuring. Renault would ask for three seats on the board.

that the damage to BMW's reputation that would result from a decision to wind down the main Rover plant is likely to tip the scales in favour of Britain.

However, Tony Blair has been anxious to counter the impression that Labour is an easy touch for flagging industries, hence the insistence on increased productivity.

BMW has suggested during talks that the factory will need to produce 500,000 vehicles a year to be viable in the long-term. The company has already poured more than £2 billion into the ailing plant over the past eight years. Joachim Müller, BMW's new chief executive, is believed to favour keeping Longbridge open but wants to scale down the level of the investment planned.

□ Ford, the US carmaker, said yesterday that there was no question of it closing its South Wales plant or shedding jobs there. John Gardiner, Ford's spokesman in Britain, was responding to reports that Alan Michael, the Welsh Secretary, was to meet Ford officials in Detroit amid fears that up to 300 Bridgend jobs were at risk.

Insurers' pension fear may cost City billions

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE City is facing the loss of billions of pounds of revenue as insurance companies, fearful of another mis-selling scandal, stop selling personal pension plans that fail to match the Government's new stakeholder criteria.

Some firms are so concerned about the consequences of recommending unsuitable products that they are preparing a moratorium on the sale of long-term regular premium pensions with high up-front charges.

They are afraid that when the cheap, simple stakeholder pension is introduced in two years' time, some of the old-style plans will be exposed as unjustifiably expensive. A number of firms are intending to concentrate on single-premium pension plans to avoid becoming embroiled in further accusations of mis-selling.

The cost to the Insurance industry of the two-year delay could be billions of pounds. Companies sold £1.1 billion worth of new regular premium contracts in 1998, plus £507 million of additions to existing policies and £4.5 billion worth of single-premium plans.

The Association of British Insurers, the industry's trade body, has unofficially told members to consider the changing structure of the pension industry as they sell.

Tony Baker, deputy director-general of the ABI, said: "We have told companies that they should be careful about selling any products with high initial charges, transfer penalties, or where customers will have to pay twice for advice."

"Making these judgments is not easy and it means a lot of regular premium contracts may not be sold in the next two years."

Insurers are desperate not to repeat the mis-selling scandal of the 1980s and 1990s that could eventually cost the industry £2 billion. As a result, some have decided to concentrate on single-premium products or the new individual savings account (Isa) instead. In response to industry concerns, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) is preparing to issue guidelines within the next few weeks.

An FSA spokeswoman said: "The guidelines will say that if insurance companies think a stakeholder pension would be more suitable for a client, then they should not sell them long-term products with high front-end charges. It is a warning shot across the bows because prevention now is better than having to find a cure later."

EU tax back in spotlight

By MARTIN WALLER

THE meeting of European finance ministers in Brussels today will again consider the so-called "withholding tax", a measure proposed by the European Commission as part of moves towards tax harmonisation. Critics say it could cost up to 110,000 jobs in the City.

Financial institutions in London have urged Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to use his power of veto to block the measure, but this is thought unlikely at today's meeting.

The Treasury has said it will not sanction any move that would harm London as an international financial centre, but it has stopped short of condemning the tax outright. Its critics fear that finance ministers will eventually arrive at a compromise with a watered-down version of the tax, perhaps in exchange for a greater opening-up of continental financial services markets.

OEF predicts deeper recession

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE manufacturing recession has yet to make its full toll of the growing services sector and could push the country into a deeper downturn than the Treasury is expecting, a leading economics think-tank predicts today.

Oxford Economic Forecasting said that declining manufacturing output would have a knock-on effect on the demand for services, with transport and support services especially under threat. The warning comes despite growing hopes in the markets that Britain's economy is on course for a soft landing. The tax-cutting element

of last week's Budget has even led some analysts to speculate that interest rates have now reached the bottom of the cycle.

Analysts are eagerly awaiting the publication of the minutes from the last Monetary Policy Committee meeting later this week for clues as to whether the Bank of England's decision to leave rates on hold merely reflected a pause or signalled a halt to the Bank's rate-cutting spree. The MPC's views on the Budget arithmetic are likely to prove especially crucial to the immediate outlook for rates.

OEF argues in its latest UK Industrial Prospects, however, that interest rates will still fall by at least another half point by the summer, and with inflation expected

to fall below target later this year could be reduced even further.

Overall economic growth will slide to just 0.4 per cent this year with the first two quarters likely to see negative growth, leaving the country in a technical recession. Manufacturing output will slump by 1.4 per cent this year and will have a strong dampening impact on the services sector.

However, the report adds that with only about 10 per cent of services turnover directly related to sales to the manufacturing sector, the more painful impact is likely to come indirectly through a substantial rise in manufacturing unemployment denting consumer confidence.

Deloitte & Touche under the microscope

By JASON NISSE

DELOITTE & TOUCHE, the accountant, is being investigated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales over its auditing of Capital Corporation, the troubled gaming group, which issues full-year results this week.

The Department of Trade and Industry is also understood to be interested in the outcome of the investigation, which is being conducted by the Professional Standards Office, after it received a file of complaints about the running of Capital. The investigation is understood to centre on Deloitte's auditing of Capital's 1995, 1996 and 1997 accounts, all of which were given unqualified audit reports.

During this period the running of Capital — best known for its Crockfords casino in Mayfair — has been the subject of a great deal of controversy, with allegations of gaming fraud, petty theft and lack of controls. There was also concern about the fact that no accounts were produced by Capital's pension fund for five years.

There was also an uneasy row over whether the company should have issued a profit warning in October 1996. In the midst of this the company was subject to a hostile takeover bid from London Clubs International, which failed only when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission blocked it.

Concerns started in 1995

when it emerged that there were difficulties with the internal controls at Capital Corporation. Deloitte is understood to have asked for a "formal note of understanding" by the Board of Capital Corporation to address this before it would sign off the accounts.

This undertaking was given, but many of the problems continued. The then chief executive, Kenneth Thompson, commissioned external reports from Price Waterhouse, the accountant, Network Security, the private detective, and Andrew Tottenham, a gaming expert. These inquiries found a series of problems with both the running of the company and the checks being made by Deloitte.

In October 1996 Mr Thompson was taken ill. While he was away from the company, it became clear that the group's profits would fall well below City expectations.

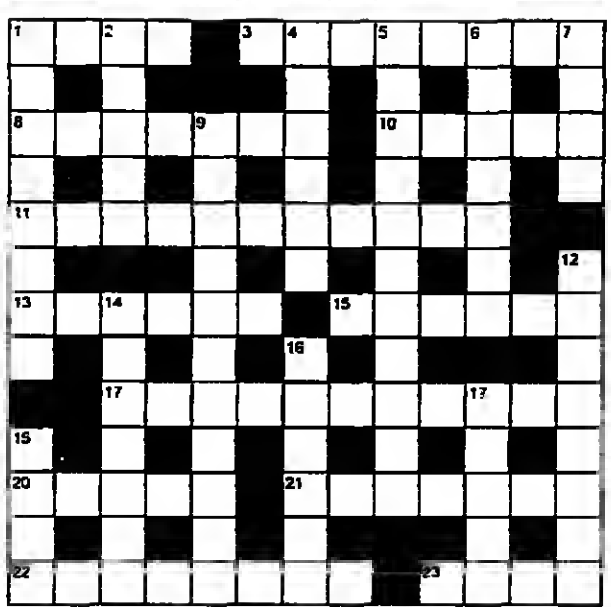
However, after a meeting of the board and its advisers — which included Hambros, the merchant bank, and Deloitte — it was decided that a profits warning would not be issued. Though not at the meeting, Mr Thompson argued that this was the wrong thing to do.

The 1996 results appeared in March 1997. The accounts were not qualified despite many of the issues highlighted in the 1995 audit not having been fully addressed.



Capital Corporation was best known for its Crockfords casino

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1665

ACROSS

- 1 Asymmetrical; biased (4)
- 3 In professional training (8)
- 8 Evenly spaced (7)
- 10 Deprives of feeling (5)
- 11 (French) tiff (11)
- 13 Superfluity (6)
- 15 Absence of social conscience (6)
- 17 Able to regulate body heat; ardent (4-7)
- 20 Friendship (5)
- 21 Giving case (7)
- 22 (Roman) statuette (8)
- 23 Disease-causing organism (4)

DOWN

- 1 Rim projection (8)
- 2 Scot. town; a collecting Lord (5)
- 4 Unusual item (6)
- 5 Humiliating (11)
- 6 Money as single payment (4,3)
- 7 Furniture to work at (4)
- 9 Our Father (5,6)
- 12 To-and-fro device (8)
- 14 Aircraft engine cover (7)
- 16 Husband of Tisiphone (6)
- 18 Journal of Plague Year author (5)
- 19 Non-U (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1664

- ACROSS: 1 Garibaldi 6 Hub 8 No doubt 9 Cater 10 Ajar 11 Geometry 13 Flagon 14 Crisis 17 Ideogram 18 Atop 20 Guile 21 Termini 22 Tag 23 Recumbent
DOWN: 1 Gandalf 2 Rude awakening 3 Bout 4 Lather 5 In camera 6 Hit one's stride 7 Burly 12 Longueur 15 Sophist 16 Mastic 17 Ingot 19 Tram

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